

spelter, \$5.75; sheet zinc, in casks, \$6.20 to \$6.25.

Oils, Paints, and Glass.—Orders in these lines are reported as being on the small side. The feature of the week is a further strong advance in glass, Belgian makes being now quoted at \$3.25, instead of \$3.20, per 100 feet, for first break; second break, \$3.45. Oils, turpentine, etc., remain without change.

A VANISHED MERCANTILE AGENCY.

Last month we devoted half a page to the much-turned-over affairs of the International Mercantile Agency, which had made much fuss and done some business in Canada as well as the United States. A former president, named T. N. McCauley, sued the concern for a loan of \$54,220, also for an accounting by a board of alleged 'dummy directors.' Then a stockholder in Hamilton caused the arrest of McCauley for larceny. Later about the concern is contained in a special to the Mail from New York saying that this "\$3,000,000 mercantile agency" was sold at public auction in that city a week ago for \$26,000. The sale was conducted by Receiver George R. Beach, who proposed to auction the belongings of the company in separate lots. He first put up the reports of the financial standing of many thousands of firms throughout the United States and Canada. These were supposed to have cost \$1,200,000 to collect. The highest bid was \$10, which was refused. Receiver Beach refused to accept this bid, but divided the property into two lots. In the first lot everything except the outstanding accounts was included. The second lot consisted of the accounts due. The first lot was sold to Charles H. Barritt, of Philadelphia, for \$23,000, and the second lot to the same purchaser for \$3,000, making Mr. Barritt the sole owner of the entire corporation. Who will be the next smart fellow to get up an "up-to-date" Mercantile Agency and make a million or more of profit out of it? The commercial public seems to bite very easily.

OUR TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The statement of the United States exports to Canada for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1904, shows a total of \$131,274,346, while the Canadian statement of imports from the United States, which should include only articles classified as exports from the United States to Canada, shows a total value of such imports of \$143,010,578, or a total of \$12,000,000 greater than the United States statement. An examination of the Canadian and United States figures for other years also shows material differences of statement.

This is not an unusual development in comparing the export figures of the United States with the import figures of other countries.

While the figures of the Canadian Government and those of the United States differ somewhat as to the values of the

commerce passing between them, they sufficiently agree to show that the growth of that commerce has been very rapid. Exports from the United States to Canada have increased, according to the figures of the United States, from \$24,000,000 in 1854, to \$131,000,000 in 1904, a period of 50 years. Most of this growth, however, has occurred in the last decade. From 1854 to 1894, a period of 40 years, the increase, as shown by the figures of the Bureau of Statistics, was but \$32,000,000, the figure for 1894 being \$56,000,000, while from 1894 to 1904, a 10-years' period, the increase was \$75,000,000.

The table which follows shows the trade between the United States and Canada from 1850 to 1904:

	Exports to Canada.	Imports from Canada.
1850	\$ 9,515,991	\$ 5,179,500
1860	22,695,928	23,572,796
1870	25,339,254	36,265,328
1880	29,460,257	32,988,564
1885	38,245,634	36,695,685
1890	40,282,108	39,042,977
1895	52,854,769	36,574,327
1900	95,319,970	39,369,074
1901	105,789,214	42,482,163
1902	109,642,993	48,076,124
1903	123,266,788	54,781,418
1904	131,274,346	51,406,265

—Boston News-Bureau.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES.

The following were among the enquiries relating to Canadian trade received at the Canadian Government Office, in London, during the week ending 28th September, 1904:

Enquiry is made by a London firm for names of good, reliable makers in Canada of oak panelling and similar goods. A firm of butter importers, who find there is an opening for Canadian produce in their locality, desire to be placed in communication with some of the best and largest butter producing dairies in Canada with a view to a regular consignment business during the season. A large firm of fruit and produce brokers have asked to be placed in touch with apple growers in Canada seeking to export fruit for the English market. An Eastern Canadian house has asked to be placed in communication with reliable exporters in Great Britain of ebony brushes, mirrors, rubber combs, sponges, etc., and with large jobbers dealing in such goods as would be sold in drug stores. A firm of manufacturers' agents in Ontario are seeking to establish connections with some English houses, who require purchasing agents in Canada for raw and manufactured materials. They are also prepared to act as agents in the Dominion for English made goods.

THE IRON AND STEEL MARKETS.

Confidence is the keynote of present trade, says the Iron and Machinery World. It is of comparatively recent origin and has certainly had rapid progress in the

past week or two. It is confidence mainly in the future, but the influence is already extending to current transactions. There is at least moderate improvement in the purchases of most lines of iron and steel material both for immediate and most remote deliveries. Pig iron trade in most if not all markets is nothing other than active. Melters are everywhere impressed with the idea that this is the time to buy and they are accordingly placing their orders with greater freedom than at any time in perhaps eighteen months. They are seeking to bind sellers to long-time contracts, but rarely succeed to the full extent desired. Miscellaneous consumption of iron and steel grows. In the east there has been some buying of steel cars. And in most finished steel products an increasing interest among the consumers has been awakened. It has reference mainly to future wants, but to a modified extent is influencing present orders. There is a general shaping of things for 1905 or earlier in the winter. The minor metals are sharing in these conditions. Exports of copper are unusually heavy, those for September being reported at 20,489 tons, and for the first nine months of the year 178,909 tons, against 94,880 tons for the corresponding period last year.

—The terrible disaster in the St. Clair submarine tunnel, connecting Sarnia with Port Huron, by which six railway employees were asphyxiated, and several others seriously injured, has caused a general cry for some different arrangement, under which such fatalities will be impossible. The use of electricity is fav-

FIRE ESCAPES FOR BUILDINGS

WRITE

THE GEO. B. MEADOWS

Toronto Wire
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