

lies, the other being soda, and is largely used in chemistry and the arts. Partly from increased cost of production in Canada as our forests become denuded, partly because similar substances are more easily obtained elsewhere, the trade has for years past been falling off.

"I am very glad the trade is falling off," said a well-known merchant. "It is a species of waste only comparable to the killing of bullocks on the plains of South America for the mere sake of the tallow." The country is, in fact, outgrowing the rude industry. Besides, a mineral has been discovered in Germany, near Strasbourg, we believe, which supersedes the salts of potash, which have for years gone from our shores to France and England.

Looking back over the files of the *Trade Review*, we find reference to the potash industry which is of interest to-day. In the issue of that journal for July, 1865, we find the following: "The trade in this article is equal in value to over one million dollars annually, and may be ranked as the third item of our exports. The standard for first pots is 75 per cent., and for pearls 65 per cent. of pure alkali. Canadian ashes bring the highest price in the British market, owing, no doubt, to the high standard of inspection which has governed the trade for nearly fifty years.

"Receipts of pot and pearl ash at Montreal from 1st January to 31st December, 1864, compared with 1863, were as under:

	Pots.	Pearls.	Total.
1864....	31,244 brls.	10,743 brls.	41,987 brls.
1863....	32,945 "	10,716 "	43,661 "

"Pots were worth in January, 1865, the following figures at Montreal, viz.: Pots, \$5.40 to 5.45, and pearls \$5.45 to 5.50."

Contrast this with the potash market in the year 1889. For months our Montreal correspondent has been writing, at intervals, in terms similar to those of last week: "The trade shows continued and marked signs of decadence. Stocks are very small, only some fifty barrels of pots, and about sixty of pearls, in all. * * First pots are worth about \$4.10; seconds scarce, and perhaps a shade firmer at \$3.65 to 3.70. * * Pearls are hard to quote, \$5.15 to 5.20 are about the latest figures." The last round lots we have heard of being shipped were one of 140 barrels to the port of Havre, France, on July 1st, a car load on the 12th, also to France, and some limited shipments to Liverpool.

It looks, therefore, as if the industry were an expiring one. We may bid it farewell with interest, but without regret. It served a good purpose in its day, but its day is gone, along with "the good old times," when we used walnut, now worth \$100 per thousand, for fence rails.

Thirty or forty years ago or more, it was a not unusual sight to see in what was then Canada West, and doubtless the same could have been witnessed east of the Ottawa River, log structures, great or small, having brick furnaces into which were fitted from two to ten great cast iron potash kettles. Around the outside of these rude buildings were ranged platforms holding wood ashes in barrels. Water poured into the barrels percolated through the ashes, became impregnated with alkaline salt, and dripped

from openings at the bottom of the barrels in the form of lye. This lye was gathered in buckets, poured into the potash kettles, and boiled until, evaporation having carried off the liquid, there were only salts remaining. These were barrelled and shipped by vessel or steamer to Montreal, whence they found their way to Liverpool.

Rough and queer were these potash camps, as some middle-aged residents of Elgin and Essex still remember them, with great piles of cord wood for fuel accumulated round them; discarded giant kettles reposing out doors on the piles of leached ashes, "old soldiers" that had served their day, and now, infirm, were laid aside. Grimly attractive to youngsters were the sights and sounds within these precincts. Day and night, Sunday and Saturday, must the furnace fires be kept alight till the lye was "boiled out," and the weird voices of the darkey laborers beguiling their vigils with songs as they plied the long ladles to stir the boiling mass, were sometimes only less awe-inspiring than the glimpses of the interior, obtained through volumes of steam lighted up fitfully by the glare from the fires and the rude torches.

A RAILWAY DIFFICULTY.

The Brandon Board of Trade has issued the following circular under date 21st July, 1890, signed by Wm. Johnston, president, and E. Fitz Bucke, secretary:

"The Canadian Pacific and Northern Pacific & Manitoba Railway Companies have entered into an agreement making a discriminating rate in favor of Winnipeg of about 20 per cent. on first to fifth class rates. You will at once recognize the injustice thus forced upon every merchant in this city, and how difficult it is to do business in Brandon and successfully compete with Winnipeg.

"We have made repeated appeals to both railway companies to make such adjustment in rates as will do justice to us; and although they acknowledge the great injustice being done to Brandon, and express a desire to meet our wishes, yet both refuse to be the first to make any change in said rates, apparently fearing the determined unjust opposition of certain Winnipeg merchants.

"Under these circumstances the merchants of Brandon have signed an agreement not to receive any consignment of goods shipped over the Northern Pacific & Manitoba Railway until such time as these rates have been satisfactorily adjusted. While both companies are to blame in the matter, we hold that the latter company is the more guilty of the two, inasmuch as this discrimination did not exist until its road came into the country; and, further, it has been heavily bonused by the Local Government for the express purpose of breaking through the C. P. R. monopoly, and giving Manitoba competition in freight rates. This, it has failed to do; in fact, Brandon, as a distributing point, is suffering more severely since the advent of the N. P. & M. Railway than ever before.

"We would, therefore, respectfully solicit your aid, and would request that until this matter is adjusted you co-operate with us by shipping all goods over the C. P. R. to this point. Your assistance will be very sincerely appreciated by the merchants of this city, and united effort will, we feel confident, soon accomplish the end sought after."

THE LOUISIANA LOTTERY.

The desire to get rich quickly and with the least possible labor seems to be inborn in a majority of the human race. For a prospect of a prize most people will very readily take part in a "sweepstakes" or enter for a "raffle," whether the latter be in a church parlor or in a tavern. The Latin races are said to be the most eager to "take chances" in such affairs as lotteries, which would, if true, account in part for the extraordinary readiness shown by the people of New Orleans to get what are considered lucky numbers in tickets for the now famous Louisiana Lottery, whose projectors have so long made money out of the public.

For many reasons it is a matter of serious regret that the Louisiana Lottery Company is likely to succeed in getting its charter renewed for another quarter of a century. Some days ago both branches of the Legislature of that State passed a bill favorable to the concern. But in order to secure the vote in the Senate the lottery company agreed to add another quarter of a million to the enormous sum it had agreed to give for the right to continue business in the State, making in all \$1,250,000 a year. Thus a concern which is rightly considered a disgrace to America is made to appear a public benefactor. That it can afford to pay this sum annually shows what an enormous fraud this lottery scheme has become. It has its dupes in every city on this continent, and it has impoverished and prostrated thousands of honest but ignorant people.

To a recent number of *The Christian Union*, Mr. J. C. Simonds contributes a paper on the subject of the Louisiana Lottery in which he says that in New Orleans gambling has been so long continued and so universal that generations have become familiar with it. Time and again churches have been built by these means. Christ Church, the largest and most fashionable Protestant church in New Orleans, is a notable example. How the enlightened Christian sentiment of to-day revolts at the thought of the Church of Christ going hand in hand with one of the most debasing vices of the world! Considering the apparent good gambling had done at this rate, it is not surprising that many persons favored the license system, so that the State might share in its profits. Those who were thus solicitous, suspiciously solicitous it would appear, for the interests of the commonwealth, complained that the Havana Lottery took more money from the people each month than the gamblers did, and took it out of the State beyond all possibility of benefit to the inhabitants. New Orleans, it was said, was as good a market for the sale of these tickets as was Havana itself. When the Havana Lottery was established, it soon recruited a large number of regular monthly patrons in New Orleans. It is said that it took not less than \$2,000,000 a year from that city. The Kentucky State Lottery also had some patronage for a time. These facts are mentioned to show that the people of New Orleans, and to some extent the people of the entire State, have been brought up—educated, as it were—in a sentiment familiar with and favoring this species of vice. The passion to have a chance in the lottery was one of the first they knew, and has become one of the strongest and most general.

After considerable agitation, a bill to authorize a State lottery was prepared. This bill was subtly worded, and doubtless, by its plausible phrases, many were deceived into