

## Losses by Flood and Fire in the U. S.

*Bradstreet's* gives the following figures on the recent disasters in that country: "After a free inquiry throughout the regions devastated by water through persons well calculated to judge, we are inclined to regard the following totals as much nearer the actual money loss in property destroyed than any aggregates previously published; at Johnstown and other points throughout the Conemaugh Valley, the Pennsylvania Railway losses in that region, and the loss of the Cambria Iron & Steel Company, \$30,000,000; losses to other railway companies (in four States), \$1,250,000; damage from floods to real property, merchandise, etc., at cities and towns in Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia, \$5,000,000; at Williamsport, Pa., \$5,000,000; in the Juniata valley, Pa., \$1,000,000; in Southern New York (twenty five towns), \$1,500,000; probable loss to coal mines, \$500,000; total, \$44,250,000. These figures are given on the judgment of men on the ground, without claim to an exactness, which is at this time, of course, impossible. At seven towns in the Conemaugh valley there was \$7,537,000 capital invested in business, while at Williamsport, Pa., the total capital invested was not less than \$23,000,000. The stricken town of Seattle is said to have lost \$15,000,000 at least, from fire. The capital invested in business there aggregated \$4,100,000."

## The Salt Trust.

The preparations of the capitalists who are trying to secure control of the production of salt in this country are nearly completed, and we may expect to see the price of the article advance soon. The larger portion of the capital of the trust will be furnished by members of the English Salt Union, and when the organization is in working order the two combines will work in harmony. The formation of an international trust—for that is what the movement practically amounts to—is a novelty in the history of combinations, and if it is successful similar attempts will no doubt be made with other products. It may be asked of what use is the tariff if domestic and foreign producers are to pool their capital and destroy competition? The ingratitude of the American salt manufacturers is something phenomenal. The consumer has subjected himself to a tax of 12 cents per 100 lbs. in bags and 8 cents per 100 lbs. in bulk (ad valorem duties, 39.30 per cent. in bags and 79.63 per cent. in bulk) merely for the sake of a few capitalists who are not satisfied with the protection of the tariff, but wish to do away with all competition, and in order to accomplish their aims apply to Englishmen for the necessary capital. Thus the product of the taxation of American consumers will line the pockets of foreigners, against whom the tariff is levied as a protection to American producers.—*Merchant's Review*.

Mr. Pye, of Minneapolis, is arranging with the Pilot Mound Milling Company for constructing and supplying the machinery for the new roller mill.

The C. P. R. elevator is almost full of grain at Owen Sound, and large shipments are being

made to make room for 70,000 bushels of corn en route from Chicago and 30,000 bushels of wheat from Port Arthur.

The latest evolution of paper is a paper oil can, so prepared with a patent composition lining that it is impervious to even kerosene oil and is handsomer and more durable than any other can in the market. It is very difficult to solder tin cans so that some are not defective, besides which kerosene oil seems to soon corrode them so that the oil works through, while those that are glass lined are easily broken; hence, the paper oil can fills a want.

The Bell, Lewis & Yates Co. have been awarded the whole of the New York Central and West Shore contract for coal for delivery at Buffalo and Rochester for the ensuing year—400,000 tons; this is the largest coal contract ever given to one producer in this country. The same concern has also the contract for the Michigan Central road—110,000 tons. We congratulate our friends on this achievement.—*Coal Trade Journal*.

It is interesting to trace the evolution of paper back from the oil can to the paper lamp, paper bottles for ink and bluing, paper pails and wash basins, paper car wheels, building paper, wrapping paper, printing paper and writing paper which we believe, was the first use to which paper was put; at any rate, it is evident that there is "nothing like paper." It has been the means of recording the world's history and enlightening the world, and each year finds some new use to which it is adapted.—*American Grocer*.

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