

CAIRD'S STAMPED STEEL BARRELS

These are patent barrels, which have been put on the market with the claim, says the *Hardware Trade Journal*, that they are the cheapest, safest and best for carrying and storing mineral, vegetable and animal oils and other liquids. This claim appears to be established on the ground that these barrels occupy less space, and are stronger and more durable, also less dangerous, than wood barrels; that they allow of no leakage or loss by evaporation; that they require no cooperage; that they save taring and are carried at cheaper rates, these being points which certainly seem to be thoroughly well provided for. The barrels are made by a special process, being stamped cold out of sheet steel of a suitable thickness, according to the required capacity of the completed barrel, in such a manner that there are no longitudinal seams. According to the size of the barrel it is composed of two or four separate cylinders joined together circumferentially by spinning the two adjacent edges together and locking them in such a manner as to provide a thoroughly secure and liquid-tight joint. Thus the five and ten gallon barrels are made with one joint, while those of larger size, twenty and forty gallons and upwards, are made with three. In this case the two outer joints are made from the inside with a circumferential T-rib. Barrels of a certain nominal capacity as made by this process may be relied on to be of equal dimensions and capacities, since they are all made from the same die and of metal of equal thickness, and this identity is of the greatest consequence, since it does away with taring. At the same time, leakage, evaporation or the damage of the contents are done away with, the joints being proof and the interior of the barrel galvanized, zinc-coated or tinned according to the nature of its service. So far as strength is concerned, the heaviest 40-gallon steel barrel, which weighs no more than a wood barrel of the same capacity, and which can be slung in an exactly similar manner, is found to stand all conceivable tests in the ratio of at least three to one, as compared with the strongest American wood petroleum barrels. These steel barrels seem moreover to be strongly approved by the railway companies. They are made in London and in Barrow.

SLATE IN KENT COUNTY.

Mr. Watson, of Detroit, has a farm of excellent slate in Euphemia township, six miles from Bothwell. While boring for gas Mr. Watson struck rock three feet from the surface, which turned out to be slate. The farther down the shaft went the better became the slate. When the bottom of the bed was reached it was found to be 600 feet thick. Mr. Watson secured the services of a Detroit expert, who declared the slate to be an A 1 quality, and from testing it was seen that there was an unlimited quantity within a very few feet of the surface nearly all over the forty acres which comprise the farm. Mr. Watson is organizing a company, and the work of developing the bed will be commenced at once. The only other slate bed now being worked in Canada, we believe, is near Richmond, Que.

PHILADELPHIA STREET RAILWAYS.

The consolidation of nearly ninety five per cent. of all the street railway lines of Philadelphia was effected in October. From that date the three great companies, controlling about 420 out of a total of 470 miles of street railway, are united under the name of the Union Traction Company. This process of consolidation has been going on with great rapidity since 1888. The incorporation of the three important companies—Philadelphia Traction Company, Electric Traction Company, and People's Traction Company—marked a new era in the history of the street railway system of Philadelphia. With almost unlimited capital at their disposal, these companies were enabled to effect rapid changes in the equipment of the roads, and also great improvements in the service. While the new arrangement practically amounts to consolidation, the actual process has been first a consolidation of the Electric Traction and the People's Traction under the name of the Union Traction Company, which latter company has leased the Philadelphia Traction Company's lines for a period of 999 years. This lease, which was signed on the 7th of October, provides that

all the lines formerly leased to the Philadelphia Traction Company are now to be placed under control of the new company. For this, the Union Traction Company agrees to pay an annual rental of \$1,600,000 in gold coin, and, furthermore, to assume all contracts and pay all debts, with the exception of the bonded indebtedness of over \$1,000,000, which is to be gradually liquidated by the Philadelphia Traction Company; in return for which this company is to receive the collateral securities deposited to insure the payment of this debt. The new company, whose capital stock, mileage and rolling stock are far greater than any other company in the United States, will have an opportunity to greatly extend the single-fare transfer system and also to extend the lines. But the vast corporate powers thus formed will call for a far greater control over the companies by Councils and the Department of Public Works than has heretofore been the case. In this respect the past experience of the city does not enter as the most encouraging element—*Annals of the American Academy for November.*

INLAND REVENUE.

A decided improvement in the promptness with which statistics of the departments at Ottawa reach the public is shown in the appearance in the daily press of a *resume* of the annual report of the Department of Inland Revenue for the fiscal year ended with June last. Noticeable points in this return are the magnitude of the Canadian cigar manufacture industry and the increase in the export of spirits. An increase in exports of whiskey from 76,098 gallons in 1894 to 117,218 gallons in 1895 indicates the growing favor of Canadian whiskey abroad. And this is no doubt largely due to the Government's policy of requiring the distillers to hold their whiskey in bond five years. The growth of this trade is shown by the exports for the last five years:

	Gallons.
1890-91, whiskey exported.....	20,479
1891-92 " "	32,223
1892-93 " "	51,239
1893-94 " "	76,098
1894-95 " "	117,218

The quantity of spirits produced last year in Canada was 2,605,789 proof gallons, as compared with 1,608,344 proof gallons in the previous fiscal year. The raw material used in its production was:—Malt, 2,820,716 lbs.; Indian corn, 32,761,660 lbs.; rye, 8,709,602 lbs.; wheat, 339,391 lbs.; oats, 463,999 lbs.; barley, 14,750 lbs.

The quantity of malt made during the twelve months was 48,645,516 pounds, equal to say 21,822 tons, and that imported was 1,826,252 pounds. To this was to be added 29,000,000 pounds in warehouse at the beginning of the year. Of the total, there was taken for consumption in Canada 50,659,627 pounds, and exported 573,246 pounds. The figures show that the quantity made was nine millions of pounds less than the average of the preceding four years, a decline which is one effect of the Mc-Kinley bill legislation in the United States.

The transactions in tobacco, snuff and cigarettes were as follows, cigarettes being calculated at three pounds to the thousand:

Tobacco.	1st July, '95.	Average previous 5 years.
In warehouse, 1st July, 1895	1,996,002	2,079,988 lbs.
Manufactured	9,511,373	10,232,405 "
For consumption	9,708,210	9,915,278 "
Exported	302,771	238,493 "
In warehouse, 30th June, 1895	1,336,568	2,012,060 "
Duty collected, including license	\$2,369,831	\$2,383,129 "
A hundred and six millions of cigars made in Canada during twelve months, besides all those imported, would seem to be a tidy lot, for it means 21 per capita. But in 1893-4 the number was greater, equalling 26 per capita. The transactions in cigars were as follows:		
Manufactured	103,832,388	110,673,747
For consumption	106,131,294	108,945,140
Exported	166,625	330,552
In warehouse, 30th June, 1895	14,955,285	13,993,775
Revenue, including license fee	\$ 647,241	\$ 660,539
Less Canadian tobacco was taken for consumption, the quantity being only 596,741 pounds against some 900,000 pounds in 1894.		

The aggregate of inland revenue receipts for the year was \$7,912,097, which is \$329,398 less

than 1894, and \$608,133 less than 1893. It is to be borne in mind, however, that quantities of spirits, beer and tobacco were withdrawn from bond during the last six months of the fiscal year 1894, an increase being expected in excise duties during the session. Canadians appear to have been in 1894-5 drinking less spirit and beer, than the year before, and smoking less tobacco, which, as a step in the direction of economy, is to be welcomed. Compared with 1894, the consumption of spirits per head of the population was .666 gallons, against .742; of beer, 3.471 gallons, as against 3.722; of wine, .090, as against .089 gallons, and of tobacco, 2.163 lbs., as against 2.264. In 1874 we drank nearly 2 gallons of spirits per head, and in 1891 we drank 3½ gallons of beer per head (the consumption in the United States is some 15 gals.), so that we are not only comparatively abstemious, but improving. Of wine the maximum consumption was reached in 1874 with 288 gallons, which has decreased to .089 in 1894 and .090 in 1895. The consumption of tobacco reached high water mark in 1885 with 2.623 lbs., and has since fallen to 2.264 in 1894 and 2.163 in 1895.

A VERY SUCCESSFUL FAIR.

The Protestant clergy, or some of them, are down upon bazaars and lotteries and grab-bags as means to raise funds for religious or philanthropic purposes. Not so the Roman clergy, who seem rather to encourage the enterprising piety of their female parishioners in such directions. Witness the presence as chairman, in Montreal the other day, of Rev. N. Troie, the *curé* of Notre Damé parish church in that city at a meeting of the Ladies' Committee of the recent Kermesse or fancy fair held in the Drill Shed. That affair was for the benefit of Notre Dame Hospital, and realized the handsome sum of \$11,616.97, which left, with expenses of \$2,478.12 deducted, the net amount of \$9,138.85 for the hospital.

By way of hints to any ladies who may hereafter wish to aid their pastors and teachers in extracting from the pockets of the worldly-minded money to be used for the purposes of church or hospital, asylum or poor-house, we give below the detailed list of how these Montreal women raked in the \$9,138, of which Abbe Troie was so proud. It will be observed that there are at least two dozen departments; in other words, two dozen different modes of drawing the dollars and dimes of just and unjust alike. The Bazaar feature proper, as commonly understood, realized \$1,655; dinners and lunches for the down-town folk, \$975; wines (Oh! fie, fie!), \$790; tobacco and cigars (Oh! shame!), \$416; while the still naughtier roulette and lottery produced between them \$440. The harmless amusement of fortune-telling realized nearly \$75, and the inevitable ice cream brought in five times that sum. What "allegorical furniture" may mean we cannot imagine, and we are in darkness and grave doubt as to the meaning of unexplained "refreshments."

The following is a detailed statement of the receipts in each department:—

Fancy articles	\$1,655.90
Fine arts	1,083.85
Dinners and lunches	975.30
Wines for dinners	790.95
Five o'clock tea	299.90
Flower kiosk	340.46
Allegorical furniture	490.27
Roulettes	217.90
Parisian goods ..	463.55
Porcelain and stationers	579.94
Ice cream	366.62
Refreshments	455.15
Bonbons	160.24
Fish pond	74.24
Newspaper kiosk	115.25
Toys	471.01
Lottery	231.66
Women's wear	211.81
Parcel office	27.20
Tobacco	416.80
Model kitchen	180.27
Fortune-teller	74.90
Kinetoscope	41.40
Gifts	279.75
Admission tickets	1,640.65
	\$11,616.97
Total expenses ..	2,478.12
Net receipts	\$9,138.85