

CYCLES IN BANGKOK.

British Consular-Assistant Carlisle, at Bangkok, states:—Bicycles are not given a separate heading in the Customs returns. American and German makes have been leading. Bicycling is of recent growth in Siam, but has already attained considerable popularity, which has been assisted by the opening of several new roads in Bangkok. American machines found a good sale, partly on account of their lightness, but more because they could be sold at cheaper rates. They were mostly old patterns of three or four years ago, which could not be sold elsewhere. It is said that they were not found entirely satisfactory, and that complaints are made of their getting out of order. It may be hoped that now his Majesty the king and many of the princes and nobles cycle, a demand for a better class of machine may arise and the English-built cycle be more in evidence. As the Siamese are a small, light race, heavy machines would be out of place. At the same time the roughness of most of the roads requires a certain amount of strength in them. Of course, there is no guarantee that the present turn for cycling will last, as such fancies are liable to pass, especially in Siam.

OIL WELL MACHINERY FOR GALICIA.

The Anglo-Galician Oil Company has recently been formed in London, with a capital of \$2,850,000, and have purchased the oil wells which hitherto were the property of Gartenberg Brothers, of Schodnica, Galicia, Austro-Hungary. It is reported that quite a large number of rich new wells have been discovered in that field and that many new shafts will be sunk in the near future. The company have also secured the right to open wells in the districts of Baligood and Komancha. Canadian manufacturers should make strong efforts to get a share of the orders for the machinery the new company will need.

NEGLECTING TRADE WITH AUSTRALIA.

In a late report to the Department of Trade and Commerce, Commissioner Larke, writing from Sydney, again calls attention to the manner in which Canadian manufacturers and exporters are neglecting their opportunities in Australia. He says that orders are not filled promptly, and in many cases their receipt has not even been acknowledged; packing cases are defective, the contents of cases not marked upon them, and invoices are made out at prices higher than are quoted in the first instance.

He points out the splendid opportunities for trade in different lines. For instance, in the matter of boots and shoes, only a spasmodic effort has been put forward by Canadian firms to capture the trade of \$3,000,000 per annum which the Australians expend in these goods. Canadian flour is selling for \$15 per ton over the local product, but it is suffering from the fact that inferior United States flour branded "Manitoba" is finding its way into Australia. In canned fruits espe-

cially strawberries and raspberries, Canada could do a good trade.

Mr. Larke also calls the attention of manufacturers of rubber goods, leather merchants, saw, and bicycle makers to the great possibilities in the Australian markets. Ground mica is being imported from India, and commanding \$40 per ton. Mr. Larke thinks that Canadian handlers of mica might find a profitable market in Australia.

A SUGGESTION TO EXPORTERS.

Consul Tourgee, of Bourdeaux, France, suggests that it would be advisable for exporters to let consuls know something about the success or failure of enterprises in which they engage in their districts. As it is now, he says, they write asking information about dealers, opportunities, etc. The consul writes perhaps a score of letters to get the information they want, tells them what they must do, and then hears nothing more from them. It is impossible for him to learn what is done or being done along the lines he has recommended. The French authorities report importations in a manner so different from our own, that reliable comparison is literally impossible. Mr. Tourgee adds:

The French dealer is suspicious itself. He thinks anyone who asks about his business is an enemy, and the American exporter apparently imagines the consul has no interest in his business until his help is needed to collect a bad debt, which might never have been incurred if the consul had been informed with whom he was dealing and been asked to have an eye on his affairs. In my opinion, a consul is worth twice as much in looking after an enterprise already begun as in advising as to its institution.

BELGIAN ARTIFICIAL STONE.

An artificial stone from Belgium has recently been introduced into the French market, which is said to have four times the force of resistance of French free stone and which has nearly all of the properties of Cobestang granite. It has been tried in the Malines arsenal and is found to be insensible to the action of cold, absorbs only six to seven per cent. of water, even after a long dry spell, and can not be crushed under a pressure of 40 kilograms (88.184 pounds) to the square centimeter. This artificial stone is manufactured at Uccles, near Brussels, in the following manner: Eighty parts of extremely clean and dry coarse sand are mixed with twenty parts of hydraulic lime reduced to a fine dry dust; this mixture is put into an iron box, which is plunged into a boiler of water, and this is hermetically closed. During seventy-two hours, the cooking goes on under a pressure of six atmospheres, the temperature being maintained at 165°. At the end of this time, the iron box contains a perfect homogenous mass of stone, which rapidly hardens upon exposure to the air. The most varied colors are given to this stone, and its manufacture costs only two cents per cubic foot.

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