

THE HAMILTON TIMES

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1908.

BALLOTS FOR SALE.

On Saturday the Times warned the Liberals of the city to beware of crooked work on Monday by the Tories in connection with the Provincial elections. But we certainly had no idea then that it would be necessary to warn them against the attempted sale of Whitney ballots by Tory officials. Yet, if we are to believe the sworn statement of Mr. William S. McLaughlin, Liberal Chairman of Ward No. 5, and we have no reason to doubt it, such a thing happened. He declares under oath that one, Harry Dillabaugh, a Conservative poll clerk, offered him on Saturday night a bunch of fifty ballots, for West Hamilton election, with the names of the three candidates thereon and with the official stamp of the returning officer, Col. A. H. Moore, for \$100 or at the rate of \$2 a piece. Mr. McLaughlin did not accept the offer. With a view, however, to bringing this man to justice, he made an appointment to meet him on Sunday, in the meantime notifying Mr. Wardrope, Liberal candidate in West Hamilton, and Mr. Zimmerman, M. P. He also notified the police, so that they might be in a position to act at the proper moment. The police acted, but not in the way expected. Instead of arresting Dillabaugh or waiting until he might be caught in the act of trying to sell the ballots, the Chief Smith notified Returning Officer Moore. He, in turn, gets busy, and no arrest follows. Now, what excuse has Chief Smith for this action of his? Simply that he looked upon the proposed deal as a drunken freak, assisted by a fool returning officer. The Times has been a good friend to Chief Smith, notwithstanding his political proclivities. We have supported him every time we considered him in the right, and when he was in the wrong, we treated him with leniency. When the local Tory organs were abusing him and his men, sometimes using villainous language, we defended them from their aspersions. But there is no defence for this action of his. He was informed that an attempt was being made by Dillabaugh to commit a serious crime—a crime against the whole city of Hamilton and the Province, yet he deliberately takes a step that he knows would render more difficult the task of bringing this man to justice. The question is, could Dillabaugh have gotten these ballots without the connivance of a deputy returning officer? We understand an official admits that Dillabaugh got the ballots from him, and the fact that Col. Moore dismissed two men shows that he looked upon the matter in a more serious light than did the chief. The Times believes that this case affords sufficient ground for the Police Commissioners making an investigation into Chief Smith's conduct in this affair.

Now, it may be asked what harm could have come to Mr. Wardrope by the sale of these ballots? In the first place, it shows that Mr. Whitney's numberless ballots leave room for crookedness in connection with the elections. Had the ballots been numbered, as they used to be, they could not have been used without being detected. The numberless ballot admits of such tricks as that attempted, and also permits of ballot stuffing. It also shows that some of Whitney's election officials are not above suspicion. The briber and the thumb nail man still exist.

MUCH TO BE CONSIDERED.

Some people seem to have conceived the notion that because in the Hydro-Electric Commission's estimates the term "transforming" appears, therefore, if we buy current from it, we have no further expense; nothing further to do but switch the current on to the customers' dynamos.

This is a very great mistake. The power is generated at Niagara at about 11,000 or 12,000 volts, and is there transformed by the step-up process to approximately 60,000 volts for purposes of transmission. At each municipal sub-station it must be stepped down again, and the cost of doing that must be borne by each. Suppose the power is to be delivered to Hamilton at 12,000, 6,000 or 4,000 volts, and supposing, further, that the Commission does it for us, we must pay the entire cost, with interest, and bear all the loss of current involved in the process. The Commission will charge all of it to us, as it is caused in filling our particular order.

What will it amount to? The Hydro-Electric engineers made an estimate when the Commission had the matter under consideration. Transforming is one of the items that it found it unwise to estimate on small lots, as the cost increases inversely with the quantity used. It therefore estimated on plant for 12,000, 9,000 and 6,000 horse-power. The figures it gave for cost of transforming was \$24,906, \$19,722 and \$14,421 a year respectively. The Commission seemed unwilling to estimate on a smaller transforming station, as many of the items are not reduced by the decrease from the 12,000 to the 6,000 horse-power standard. For the proposed 1,500 horse-power the \$14,421 plant would mean \$9.61 a horse-power for transforming charges. Even if we cut the price of the work per annum to \$10,000 the transformer cost is still a large figure, making on 1,500 horse-power over

\$6.50 per horse-power. It is to be borne in mind, too, that since that time it has been determined to build the inter-switching station away out beyond Dundas, which will increase Hamilton's special charge.

And when we have paid for stepping-down the power from approximately 60,000, or 12,000 volts to the lower voltage at which it is to be delivered at the municipal sub-station, it must still be again transformed to suit the customers' needs, and additional expense and loss of current must be incurred. Distribution in small lots is as costly matter. The Commission's estimate was that even in 50 horse-power blocks it would cost for distributing from \$5.58 per horse-power a year within two miles, up to \$10.40 at six miles. That is a big item to add to the cost. And if we want to go into the handling of electric current we must foot the bills and take all the risk. Government assures us nothing; we must insure it against all contingencies. Section 8 of the proposed 30-year monopoly contract specifically sets forth, that "the maintenance of approximately the agreed voltage at approximately the agreed frequency at the sub-station in the limits of the corporation shall constitute the supply of all power involved herein and the fulfillment of all operating obligations hereunder." We must then pay the bills without kicking. Our hands will be tied for 30 years.

INTERNATIONAL WATERWAYS

Some of the matters dealt with in the annual report of the Canadian members of the International Waterways Commission are of great importance. The estimated lowering of Lake Ontario and the international channel by the diversion of 10,000 cubic feet of water per second to the Chicago drainage canal is about 4 inches in Lake Ontario, and 6 in Lakes Huron and Michigan, and 5 in Lake Erie. The maintenance of the 14-foot level in our canals renders it important that no further draughts on the supply be permitted. After canvassing the situation, the Commission expresses itself against a proposal to erect dams in the Niagara River to maintain the Lake Erie level, holding the view that they would tend to lower the level in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence. The question is one of great importance to the lake shipping, and it is gratifying to observe that the Canadian members of the Commission are alert to the dangers of the situation.

The Commissioners express their views on the diversion of water from Niagara Falls for the production of electricity. The joint Commission protests against the destruction of the Falls by unlimited draughts upon the Niagara current, and would favor limiting diversion to 26,000 cubic feet per second on the Canadian side, and 18,500 cubic feet on the United States side, and to limit the Chicago canal diversion to 10,000 cubic feet per second. The Canadian section is willing to agree to that, the term to be 21 years.

The Commissioners have views on how the power generated at Niagara should be dealt with, and they regard fairness in dealing with the companies that have invested so many millions in utilizing the Falls. Having in view the principle of equity, they express the belief that if the municipalities desire to assume the burden of the distribution of power in the working out of the plan, they should acquire the supply, not from one company, but proportionately from each, so that control of the export of each might be maintained, and duplicate lines avoided. They recommend that each of the companies be required to supply the Canadian demand proportionately, the Canadian Government controlling the export of all.

There is no doubt that in this matter the Dominion Government has absolute control, and its exercise of its powers will effectively prevent any hold-up of Canadians by one or all of the electrical companies. All the foolish talk about Niagara being "alienated," "given away to monopolists," and that sort of thing, is the product of ignorance, or a desire to deceive the people for a purpose. The companies have invested millions, and to get returns they must sell electricity. It is but reasonable that the Government should permit them to sell to the United States in order to utilize their plants, but if ever there is demand for current at paying prices in Canada, which is not fully supplied, or not at as favorable rates as places at equal distance in the United States, Government may be trusted to take prompt action to secure for Canadians a full supply under the absolute powers of control which it possesses. It is greatly to be regretted that the important questions—questions of business—of Niagara power supply should have been made the playthings of small, ignorant, and unscrupulous politicians when they would have adjusted themselves.

HOPS AND TREE TRADE.

A few days ago a local Tory organ jeeringly narrated the story of two Englishmen who were said to have been forced to leave the old land because of the condition of the hop-growing industry. It did not pretend to conceal its fierce joy at finding in this "argument" against free trade. Unfortunately for it—among intelligent people—the alleged plight of these two Englishmen does not conclude the matter. Conditions for hop-growing are even less satisfactory in the United States where the tariff is surely high enough than in Great Britain. The acreage in New York State has been reduced from 10 to 15 per cent, in Oregon from 15 to 25 per cent; while in Washington the decrease is estimated as high as 40 per cent. A prominent trade journal says: "Well informed men do not hesitate to say that this reduction—admitting the estimates to be correct—will not help to ward placing the industry on a paying

basis. It is stated by men whose ideas are by no means regarded as radical, that a 50 per cent. reduction would be none too much. One man said yesterday: "There is no question but what the industry is in a bad way. When the present crop year ends on August 31 we shall have a surplus in all probability of anywhere from 125,000 to 140,000 bales. A normal yield with the present acreage, not allowing for any of the much discussed reduction would be in the neighborhood of 300,000 bales, which, added to the surplus and the importations, would give us something over half a million bales. Unless the grower goes ahead, regardless of others, and reduces his acreage to the lowest possible point, there are more hard times ahead."

Some United States dealers charge part of the trouble to the decrease in beer drinking, said to amount to 500,000 barrels. Perhaps, however, the fact that brewers are now able to keep hop, for an almost indefinite time in cold storage, may affect the situation. The dealers say that the hop growers are in no better position than those of England. An indication of American conditions is found in the action of short sellers on the Pacific coast, who are contracting to deliver hops this fall at prices even lower than those now prevailing.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Manitoba is very much behind the other provinces, even those most recently organized, in providing for the education of its children. It makes no provision for compulsory attendance at school.

The copper markets seem to be utterly demoralized. The European markets are overstocked, and sellers are making great efforts to realize on their holdings, but consumers are well supplied for some time to come.

Even the Toronto News, with the best (or worst?) will in the world, to malign the Laurier Government and its conduct of affairs, is constrained to admit that "there is reason to think that a high average of honesty prevails amongst the permanent officials of the departments."

During the present year about \$30,000,000 will be spent in building work on the Transcontinental Railway. Besides this vast amount, many more millions will be expended on the G. T. P., C. P. R., C. N. R. and other roads. This money will mostly go into general circulation, and will tend to promote our people's prosperity.

In a recent article in the New York Medical Record, Dr. Wm. C. Phillips says that last year in Greater New York no less than 17,437 infants died under one year old. In other words, out of every 100 babies born, 15 died before reaching the first year. This is a sorry showing; but there are worse. The death rate of infants under one year in Charleston, S. C., in 1900 was 41.93 per 1,000.

It looks as if J. M. Gibson's Scotch firmness would resist to the end the ends that fancy they need "greasing." Now, you know, a man with the will to do right in him might be tempted to do the easy way, and submit to being—oh, not unblackmailed, of course!—that word has an ugly sound; but, let—into being induced to "let down" a little of the tasteful milk of gentleness persuasion. But what is left for those who want "reasoning with" behind the barn to squeeze out of a man who can't take a hint even in black-face type, and who persists in dealing in hard facts and inexorable logic? No wonder the exasperated heathen rage!

Some of the Tory organs which have gone into the manufacture of sensational falsehoods intended to damage the credit of the National Transcontinental Railway, or the G. T. P., that is bound up with it, take much satisfaction out of the idea that, untrue as the stories are, they may redound to the injury of the road among financiers and thus cause the Government annoyance. What sort of "patriotism" have the men who resort to such a course? How much more honorable than horse thievery are they?

The proposal to make a deal with the C. N. R. for the construction of a line from the Saskatchewan River to Churchill on Hudson Bay would seem to offer an easy solution of a large question. If the Dominion Government grants a cash subsidy to construct this 480 miles, obtaining in return running rights and control of rates in a manner similar to the Transcontinental arrangement, it will secure all the advantages of a Government-owned road, and avoid its multitudinous disadvantages. It is to be hoped some such arrangement will be consummated, and that the rails will soon reach the waters of Hudson Bay.

While Mayor Stewart continues to air his ignorance of electrical science by promising great economy in the transmission of power under the Hydro-Electric scheme by using a pressure of 120,000 voltage (!), the engineers of the commission, having more regard than he for the intelligence of its readers, declares (page 23) that 60,000 to 66,000 volts is "the limiting voltage of present practice in high-tension transmission." They might also truly have said that 90 per cent. of the nominally 60,000 volt-plants are really operated at only 40,000 to 50,000. And while the Mayor pretends to see a great economy possible by high voltages, the commission's contract provides that the price shall increase as the voltage rises above 12,000!

The power monopoly organ asserts that the Times "boldly estimated the cost of Government power at \$150 or even more." The statement is a Herald falsehood, as of course the Times never made such an estimate. The Herald would probably seek to excuse its willful mendacity by referring to a couple of

typographical errors which appeared in our examination of the Herald's own estimate, but which in no way misled any reader, as the figures appeared without error in another part of the article; where they were incorrect, the error was manifest, and was besides promptly pointed out by the Times. When, to forward its plan to betray the city's interests, an organ resorts to founding such falsehoods on such a basis, it is just as well that any exposed silverware or other valuables should be locked up for safety.

A VISITOR AT CONFERENCE.

"A little nonsense now and then is relished by the best of men." If I were to take a walk through the Conference my Akes might be misunderstood, but you would be Sharpe enough to Harris me, or Down me if I carried my flag through your gathering along the Robb you, and I should feel myself indeed culpable. Nothing would be Wright for me on such an occasion to use my Tongue too freely. But wishing only to make your acquaintance I must foot it cautiously, and not be floundered to any one, not even the King, using, and Garrison in every living-stone (e), and I have made a Goodwin of the very best Brand.

I notice you are not without Holmes for a visitor, or Mills in which to work. I see you have an Archer who can draw along the Bowler and Hunter seeking knowledge. Bowers also, where resting may be found, and a Barber to serve you if desired. Then there is the Strongman with a Truxa to strike hard blows, and a Carpenter and Cooper with a Foreman over all. A Hall already constructed ready for the Glacier, and the Morrow meeting place in the tower. If a Bell may be placed in the tower, I wish to get away from Hamilton, I may take a Crews along the Shore of I must foot it cautiously, and not be Awde by the wide waters, and nor Rowe will take me along the Dyke in perfect safety. When moon arises, we will kindle a fire of Cole brought by the Carter, and our Cookman, aided by his assistant Cook, will furnish us with plenty of Brown bread and Honey, with Christie biscuits brought direct from the "Kitchen." The summer brings its graceful swan, and winter its inspiring Hockey, but with a Lavell head, neither winter's cold nor summer's heat should prevent each member of the Hamilton Conference from being a faithful and good Shepherd of the sheep.

June, 1908.

MOUNT HAMILTON.

Mrs. Crumley, who lives on the stone road on the mountain, east of the East End Incline, made a most unfortunate mistake on Saturday, and a good deal of sympathy has been expressed for her. Her husband had laid on the table for a minute an envelope containing \$19 in bills, when she, thinking the envelope was a piece of waste paper, picked it up and threw it into the stove, and the \$19 was burned up and thus lost to her.

Two services, morning and evening, are now being held each Sunday at Chilledown, on the mountain. After next Sunday, the Sunday school will be held at 10 o'clock in the morning. Some fine residences are going up on the city side of the mountain top just west of the East End Incline. The residence being built for Mr. Summers is sprinkling followed by the dust raising sweeper, and then to cap all the fine dust in some places was gathered together in small heaps here and there and left over Sunday to be blown about in clouds of dust by every gust of wind.

Now why not defer the sweeping till a later hour, when residents are away from their fronts? or if needs be, use the sprinkler more freely before the sweeper follows, or the street scraper instead, any method best to avoid the dust nuisance.

Hamilton, June 8, 1908. Resident.

A Police Leak.
(Toronto Globe.)

The Hamilton police system seems to be afflicted with the habit of "leaking" in cases where secrecy is essential.

Needed the Number.
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That Hamilton poll clerk who is charged with offering ballots for sale could not have done so had the ballots been numbered.

Plenty of Space Left.
Little Katherine was eating very heartily. One of the family, asking she was eating too much, said: "Remember, Katie, there is pudding for dessert."

"Yes, I know," remarked Katherine, seriously. "I'm saving room in my neck for that."

John J. Threlfall.
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DR. GILLIE'S CASE.

To the Editor of the Times: Sir,—I crave space in your valuable paper to set matters in regard regarding a statement made by you in Saturday's issue, that a fine was likely to be imposed upon me for driving upon the wrong side of the street, when an injudicious remark made by Constable Hill turned the current of events in my favor. On the occasion in question I drove from King street west to James street north, keeping to the right of the car tracks down to and around the curve of said tracks, arriving safely upon the east side of James street north. This I felt was my indisputable right to do, as I was clearly on the right side of intersecting lines drawn through the centre of King and James streets. P. C. Hill objected and ordered me further to the right, but I resisted his interference. In

TUESDAY, JUNE 9 1908 SHEA'S May Manton Patterns Are the Acme of Pattern Perfection All 100

A5 Days' Sale of Household Linens and Cottons

Beginning to-morrow morning and for the balance of this week we will offer you the choice of our entire linen department at absolute price reductions, everything in table linens, everything in sheeting, everything in cottons, all have got the quick move-on orders that will be a boon to the thrifty house wife.

Bleached Table Linens \$1.50 for 99c

Full 2 yards wide, finest of pure flax, full grass bleached, the very best patterns and designs, fine satin finish, good \$1.50 value, for per yard 99c

65c Bleached Table Linen for 39c

This is a very special line of Silver Bleached Table Damask, not all linen, but a quality that will launder as well as the best, 68 inches wide and good 65c value, on sale for per yard 39c

Table Napkins on Sale

3 wonderful bargains in Table Napkins, in most elegant designs, good full sizes and grand qualities.

Pure Linen Table Napkins, double damask, worth \$2.50, sale price per dozen \$1.69

Pure Linen Table Napkins, good sizes, worth \$1.25, on sale to clear per dozen 69c

Hemmed Damask Table Napkins, good, large size, and splendid patterns, worth \$1.50, sale price, per dozen . \$1

Important Reductions in Towelings

Glass and Roller Towelings, all good widths, and at regular prices, the best towelings values in Hamilton. The cut prices mean savings:

15c Towelling 13½c; 15c Towelings for 12½c; 12½c Towelings, 10c; 10c Towelings, for 8½c; Towelings at 7½c; Towelings at 6½c.

Cream Table Linen 69c, Worth 85c

Cream Table Linen, pure flax, will bleach snow white in a washing or two, and stay white, 72 inches wide and a bargain at 65c, 3-day sale price, per yard 69c

Other Big Reductions in Linens

Bleached and Cream Table Linen, very best designs, 62 to 72 inches wide, Table Linen that we take pride in showing you at the regular prices, at reductions make stirring bargains:

60c value, for 46c

50c value, for 37½c

40c value, for 19c

\$2.25 Table Cloths for \$1.25

Pure Linen Table Cloths, 64 x 86 inch, in the very best designs, good \$2.25 value, sale price, each . . . \$1.25

Big Reductions in Higher-priced Cloths

Clearing Prices in Huck Towels

50c Towels for . . . 35c 35c Towels for . . . 20c

25c Towels for . . . 20c 25c Towels for . . . 17½c

20c Towels for . . . 15c 18c Towels for . . . 12½c

13½c Towels for . . . 7½c 13½c Towels for . . . 7½c

Sheetings at Reductions

English and Domestic Sheetings at the very closest cut prices. Our Sheetings have always had a reputation for quality. At these prices the buying will save you money.

50c Sheetings . . . 42c 35c Sheetings . . . 25c

45c Sheetings . . . 38c 40c Sheetings . . . 33c

30c Sheetings for . . . 19c

order to do what he called his "duty." Hill compelled me to submit to the indignity of defending myself in the Police Court.

Now, why was I likely to be fined? Because I did not drive in a straight line directly east until I had crossed the four straight tracks leading up James street south, then make a right-angle east of these tracks and proceed across the end of King street to James street north?

This is what Chief Smith told me! I should have done. Now, Mr. Editor, it is my duty, as a law-abiding citizen, to set forth my error, and to sound a note of warning to the thousands of other citizens against this error, who, like myself, may have been blissfully ignorant of the fact that the usual laws regarding driving upon the King's highway do not prevail in this city. Sincerely yours, Dr. Gillie.

THE DUST NUISANCE.

To the Editor of the Times: Sir,—The residents on Main street west, complain much last Friday evening of the clouds of dust raised from the street sweeper at an early time in the evening when they were comfortably sitting before the front of their residences. The clouds of dust raised were such as to splash into open windows and doors, could not our city officials have some other way or time than when citizens are sitting out to enjoy a quiet rest and the cool evening breezes. The method adopted at this time was a very light sprinkling followed by the dust raising sweeper, and then to cap all the fine dust in some places was gathered together in small heaps here and there and left over Sunday to be blown about in clouds of dust by every gust of wind.

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MEXICAN LOTTERY TICKETS.

Millions of Them Sold Every Year—Misspayers Persons as Vendors.

Nearly \$100,000 is spent in Mexico City every week in lottery tickets, and in the same period about \$70,000 is paid back in premiums.

On the weeks immediately preceding the big drawings, the sale, of course, mounts up to great sums. As, for instance, when the \$200,000 drawings are held, there are 20,000 tickets at \$40 each sold on the streets, and practically every ticket is disposed of, most of them during the last two weeks before the drawing. But as a general proposition, on an average of \$15,000 a day is spent by Mexico City people on the lotteries.

There are, as is well known, three companies operating under concessions from the government for the conduct of lotteries in Mexico City.

Many picturesque figures are included in the list of lottery vendors in Mexico, for all must be licensed. Blind men and women, dogs, old men, cripples and deformed persons all seem attracted to the business of selling lottery tickets, for there is an inexorable fascination about buying a ticket from a misshapen person, for there surely must be luck in it, and this feeling is played upon by the vendors.

There have been, from time to time, rumors of changes coming in the lottery business of Mexico, that this industry is going the way of the gambling houses, now entirely driven out of practically all cities of the republic, and one hears that the great new prizes are but the forerunners of the lotteries' last days, and their efforts to gather in what they may while they can. How much truth there is in this one can not say, but it is reasonable to suppose that the lotteries will ultimately be suppressed.

NEEDLES AND PINS.

With a Word or Two About Hooks and Eyes.

According to the census of 1905, says the Scientific American, 46 establishments made a specialty of manufacturing one or more variety of needles, pins, or hooks and eyes. These establishments reported a capital of \$5,331,939, 3,965 wage earners, wages amounting to \$1,365,923, and products valued at \$4,730,889. Almost equal numbers of men and women were engaged in this industry, the numbers being 1,862 and 1,800 respectively.

In addition a number of factories produced quantities of these articles without specializing on them. The total output amounted to 1,766,073 gross of needles, valued at \$1,018,411, and pins valued at \$2,632,656, a total value of \$4,151,067 for both classes of products. The leading variety of needles manufactured was sewing machine needles.

When an ordinary faker or discredited practitioner is caught tampering with nature and lending unscrupulous assistance to women seeking to escape the results of indigestion or the responsibilities of the married state, he is followed with that keen diligence that usually lands him in the penitentiary or on the gallows. When a reputable licentiate of a medical college falls into the same evil ways, his confederates hasten to do their part in befuddling the juror, with technical evidence. Even the prosecuting attorneys are caught with the glamour of "respectability" which so often stands between a criminal and his desert. If the medical profession are to back Christians and the representatives of the Crown hesitate because of the social position of criminals, where is the hope of stemming this tide of murder?

—The Home Journal.

The Eternal Feminine.
"Clara, dear," the young man began, taking her little hand in his, "at last I am in a position to tell you how fondly I—"

Instantly she jumped to her feet and clapped her hands wildly.

"I got the moth that time!" she said, exultantly, as she resumed her seat. "Go ahead, George."



FIRST WOMAN MUNICIPAL CANDIDATE IN PARIS.

The election of municipal councillors took place in Paris recently, and as Mlle. Laloe was the first woman candidate to seek election, considerable excitement prevailed in the city. Mlle. Laloe, who had as a rival candidate in her quarter M. Paul Escudier, a former president of the Municipal Council and a profound advocate of female suffrage, was, however, easily defeated. The picture shows Mlle. Laloe addressing a meeting on a Sunday.

with a production of 776,542 gross, valued at \$800,048. Hundreds of cubic miles of needles were next in rank in importance, the 310,846 gross of such needles being valued at \$422,655. More spring knitting machine needles (332,758 gross) were manufactured, but their value was considerably less, \$118,225.

Large quantities of each variety of pins were produced—132,632,650 gross of common or toilet pins, 2,530,480 gross of safety pins, and 1,704,900 gross of hairpins. The values of these varieties were \$1,129,006, \$829,386, and \$109,243, respectively.

All other products, including hooks and eyes, were valued at \$1,342,028.

GROWTH OF A COMET'S TAIL.

Miles of Wonderful Appendage Outweighed by Jarful of Air.

No bridal veil was ever so filmy as a comet's tail. Hundreds of cubic miles of that wonderful appendage are out-weighted by a jarful of air. By means of the spectroscopic we have magically transported this fairy plume to our laboratories, and have discovered that it is akin to the blue flame of our gas stoves, for the gas of which we cook and the delicate stream of a comet both consist of combinations of hydrogen and carbon, appropriately called by chemists "hydrocarbons." When it first appears in the heavens, far removed from the sun, a comet is a tailless blotch of light. As a comet swings on towards the sun, says Harper's Magazine, the hydrocarbons of the tail split up under the increasing heat into hydrogen gas and hydrocarbons of a higher boiling point. With a still closer approach to the sun, these more resistant hydrocarbons eventually yield to the increasing heat, and are decomposed in the form of soot. Interplanetary space is airless. Hence the soot cannot burn. It must pursue the comet in the form of a dust train. The particles constituting that train are small enough to be toyed with by the pressure of sunlight. No matter where the comet may be in its orbit, whether it has just entered the solar system or is