THE FIRST IRON BRIDGE.

At the present day, when we are accustomed to look upon iron as the chief constructive material with which civil engineers and architects all over the country deal, the first iron bridge that was ever built is a curious sight. This bridge, the arches of which were made of iron, was called "Iron bridge," and it was erected in 1778. It spans a little river in the county of Salop, on the railroad line from Shrewsbury to Worcester, in England. At the present day the structure is surrounded by a thriving little village, which took its name from the bridge. Several iron foundries have been established in the neighborhood. The structure was a timid attempt at what has since developed into an extensive industry. There are 3 supports; two of them are very small and cross a narrow country road, while the third and largest one spans the bed of the river. It is about 96 feet long and weighs 378 tons.

The braces were cast at Coalbrookdale, every bar being composed of two segments. Stephenson, the great civil engineer, wrote as follows on the construction of this first iron bridge: "When we bear in mind that the manipulation of cast iron was at the time of its erection in its infancy we cannot help but feel convinced that unblushing audacity alone could conceive of such an enterprise and the intelligence with which the details were outlined and executed is equal to the boldness of the conception." The bridge is constantly used and is in excellent condition, a fact which disproves all the ominous clamorings of cranks that the pernicious influences of rust will sooner or later bring danger to the iron bridges of to-day.

WIRE ROPE TESTS.

At the Sheffield Testing Works, recently, some interesting tests were made with wire ropes, which, says the local Telegraph, reflected credit not only upon the manufacturers of the ropes, Messrs. W. Cooke and Company, Limited, but upon Mr. Thomas Nash, M.I.M.E., the proprietor and manager. Messrs. Cooke have just completed an order for the China Japan Trading Company, for wire ropes to be used in mines in China and Japan. They are made of patent steel wire, and each rope has six strands, with 19 wires to each strand. It has always been necessary for manufacturers to send their ropes to London to be tested, but recently Mr. Nash laid down a machine of the latest pattern, worked by hydraulic pressure. The trial of Messrs. Cooke's ropes was the first successful public one that has taken place. There were five samples of rope, each 50 in. long, and the results were as follows:-One rope of 411 in circumference stood a strain of 61 tons before breaking, the elongation being 234 in.; the rope of 334 in. circumference stood 421/2 tons, the clongation being 3in.; the 3½ in. tope stood 40 tons and elongated 23% in.; the 31/2 in. rope stood 35 tons, the clongation being 23/8 in.; and the 41/2 in. rope stood 581/2 tons, the elongation being 256 in. The tests were

witnessed by Mr. T. Wilkinson, the managing director of Messrs. Cooke, who was extremely satisfied with the results, the rope standing a much heavier strain than was required by the company. The ordinary working strain of the ropes will be about a fourth of that employed them.

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Prices of Building Materials.

LUMBER.

CAR OR CARGO LOTS.

1% and thicker clear picks, Am. ms	330 00	(4£33 00
1 % and thicker, three uppers, Am ins.		37 00
13 and thicker, pickings, Am ins		27 00
1 x 10 and 12 drewing and better	18 00	
£ x 10 and 12 mill run	13 00	14 00
1 x 10 and 12 dressing	14 00	16 00
1 x 10 and 12 common	12 00	13 00
1 x 10 and 12 spruce culls	10 00	
1 x 10 and 12 maple culls		9 00
t inch clear and picks	28 ∞	
1 inch dressing and better	18 00	
r inch siding, mill run	14 00	16 00
1 inch siding, common	11 00	13 03
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1 % and thicker cutting up plank	22 00	
1 inch strips, 4 in. to 8 in. mill sun.	14 00	15 00
1 inch strips, common	11 00	12 00
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Metallic Roofing Co. of Canada:

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Eastlake steel shingles (painted) Improved Broad Rib Roofing, (gal-		75		00
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Improved Broad Rib Roofing (painted)	3	50		ŏ
North Western steel siding (painted)	3	25	ાં	5,
Manitoba steel siding (painted)	3	25		50
Metallic Finist ed Brick		25		50
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Tower or Mansard shingles (painted)				şċ
Metallic Terra Cotta Ti es				Ô
Price of Copper stringles according to "Hayes" Patent Metal ic Lathing accounty.	o d	veigh:	qu:	nd in-

Canada Galvanizing & Steel Roofing Co.:

Corrugated Iron, galvanized, 22, 24, and 25 W. G., per lb	4½ cts.
Corrugated Iron, galvanized, 28 W.C.,	5%
Corrugated Iron, painted, 26 W. G.,	
per square	4 00
Corrugated Iron, painted, 28 W. G.,	3 50
Broad Rib Roofing, galvanized, per	, ,
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Broad Rib Roofing, painted	4 00
Westlake shingles, steel, galvanized.	
per square	5 00
Westlake shingles, steel, painted	3 50
Standard shingles, "Walter's patent,"	• •
galvanized, per square	5 50
Standard shingles, "Walter's pate t,"	.
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Northwestern steel siding, patented,	,
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Plain brick, f. o. b. at Milton, per M	\$18 00
Hard Building	14 00 19 00 8 00
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Diamond locking tile	74 00 16 00
First quality, f.o.5, at Campbellville, per M	18 00 14 00
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