

It is particularly interesting to note, as showing the immense development of the electrical industry, that the copper consumption of the United States in 1898 was more than one fourth of the copper production of the whole world—viz., 115,935 tons—and that that country has outstripped the leading nations of Europe in industries employing this material.

The Revue de la Semaine gives the following table, showing the copper production of the world for the years 1895-1898; increase being shown principally in Australia and the United States:

Country.	1898. Tons.	1897. Tons.	1896. Tons.	1895. Tons.
Algeria.....	50	35
Argentine Republic....	125	200	100	150
Australia.....	18,000	17,000	11,000	10,000
Austria.....	1,100	1,210	1,075	1,110
Bolivia.....	2,050	2,200	2,000	2,250
Canada.....	8,040	5,905	4,000	4,000
Chile.....	24,850	21,900	23,500	22,075
Cape of Good Hope....	7,060	7,440	7,450	7,080
England.....	550	555	555	580
Germany.....	20,085	20,145	20,065	16,555
Hungary.....	430	445	210	200
Italy.....	3,435	3,480	3,400	2,500
Japan.....	25,175	23,000	21,000	18,430
Mexico.....	10,435	11,370	11,150	11,620
Newfoundland.....	2,100	1,800	1,800	1,800
Norway.....	3,615	3,450	2,500	2,585
Peru.....	3,040	1,000	740	150
Russia.....	6,000	6,025	5,100	5,280
Sweden.....	480	545	500	515
Spain and Portugal....	53,225	54,060	53,325	54,950
United States.....	234,261	215,460	203,893	172,297
Total.....	424,126	397,190	373,363	334,562
Average price Jan. 1 of each year.....	\$250.08	\$238.97	\$229.85	\$208.40

BROOM HANDLES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

United States Consul Halstead, at Birmingham, England, writing to his Government, says: "In a report printed in Advance Sheets of Consular Reports, I stated that there was a great demand for and inability to procure American broom handles here, and that I would like to know why there should be that scarcity. I have received the desired explanation, very graciously volunteered by a gentleman in the United States, who evidently is thoroughly well posted, and his letter contains so much that is of interest that I give it below. He says:

'I have been in the past a very large handler of American broom handles. I have shipped a great many thousands—yes, hundreds of thousands—to England during the last fifteen or eighteen years, but I have not done very much for the last six or eight years, for the reason that they can not be sold in England at a price that will yield any profit to either the manufacturer or shipper. The broom handle that the trade wants in England is not what is known as a broom handle in this country. The English broom handle is used for a floor brush and must be 42 inches long, 1½ inches in diameter, and the same size at both ends. An American broom handle is 38 inches long, seven-eighths of an inch in diameter at one end, tapering to three-fourths of an inch at the other. You will find by figuring it out that the English broom handle takes, including the saw calf for cutting it out of the lumber, a blank that is 1½ inches square and 42 inches in length, which figured out in the board measure, is about six-tenths of a square foot, and this is figuring very closely. When you understand the fact that the English merchants expect, or rather want, to buy the English style of broom handles at about from \$15 to \$18 per thousand f.o.b. steamer and made of white spruce, and that the lumber from which these handles have to be cut is worth from \$23 to \$24 per 1,000 feet in the boards, you can at once see that the handles will not bring as much money all turned

and delivered to the vessel as the boards themselves would bring at the mill.

'Another reason why the handles are scarce is the fact that the English people will insist upon having nothing but white spruce, whereas the broom handles that are used in this country are either birch or basswood. I have tried very hard in my experience to introduce the American basswood handle into England, but they simply won't have it. Therefore, the high price of the spruce in this country and the fact that it is growing scarcer and scarcer every year, is the reason why there is an insufficient supply of broom handles in England.'

"In the same mail which brought the New York explanation, I received from an American in Hamburg, who is doing business there as an agent for a United States manufacturer, a letter in which the following paragraph occurs:

'The reason why broomsticks are so scarce is probably this, that there has been an unexpected boom in brooms in the United States. The price has gone up twenty-five per cent. within a few months, which is quite unusual for such a staple article, and my manufacturers are in consequence four or five months behind in their deliveries. Another reason is that for broom handles, long, straight spruce or basswood sticks are required, and they must be well seasoned in order not to crack. The boom has unquestionably taxed the manufacturer to the utmost, and their kilns are no doubt full and can not be emptied before the wood is thoroughly seasoned.'

Some months ago, I met in London an American citizen of Swedish nativity, whose relatives in Sweden have for many years derived their income by the sale of spruce timber from their lands, and he told me they wrote him that not only was spruce almost exhausted in their neighborhood, but pretty generally throughout Sweden and Norway. I have presented these facts to the manufacturer of brushes here who made the enquiry for broom handles, and I am anticipating that, as he must see in the near future it will be necessary for broom manufacturers to abandon the use of spruce, he will consent now to make an experimental use of basswood.

ALKALI TRADE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

The following extract from the London Times of February 18, 1899, illustrates the actual effects of the United States tariff upon a very large British industry:

The eighth annual meeting of the United Alkali Company was held yesterday in Liverpool. The report showed a net profit of £198,262 (\$964,842), which added to £22,188 (\$108,977), brought forward, gave an available balance of £220,451 (\$1,073,819). In moving the adoption of the report, the chairman said it would be recollected that at the last annual meeting, he called attention to the high tariff imposed on their goods exported to the United States and to most European countries. The new scale of American duties had only been in operation about five months of the year then under review. In the past year they had to face those duties during the whole year, and their important trade with the United States in alkalies had been reduced to very small proportions, compared with what it was before those heavy duties were imposed. In 1895, for instance, the total export of soda ash from this country to the United States was 125,698 tons and in 1898 it fell to 29,323 tons. Of caustic soda, in 1895, the export to the United States was 33,625 tons, and in 1898 it fell to 11,171 tons. Thus the British manufacturer had been practically shut out for the benefit of the American manufacturer who had largely increased his production, and was not only able to meet his own country's requirements, but had a surplus for export. And they had to meet the same state of things all over Europe, a tax more or less severe being imposed on the British-made article. They would understand very clearly what hampered their trade. In the important trade of bleaching powder, they had not only those high duties to face, but opposition provided for their