

BRICKS FOR BUILDING AND FIREPROOFING

New Western Plants—Rapid Increase of Imports—
Paving and Sand Lime Production

The total production of clay building brick, including the common and pressed varieties, and ornamental, paving fire-brick, and fireproofing brick, is shown in the following statistics.

In 1911 the total sales were 732,901,056, valued at \$6,515,472, made up of 645,550,517 common, valued at \$5,420,890, or an average value per thousand of \$8.37; and 87,350,539 pressed brick, valued at \$1,094,582, or an average value per thousand of \$12.53. In addition to the common and pressed brick there was a production of ornamental brick of 605,643, valued at \$11,281, and a production of fireproofing brick and architectural terra-cotta valued at \$409,585.

Demand Has Been Strong.

In 1910 the production was 627,715,319 common brick, valued at \$5,105,354, or an average value per thousand of \$8.13; and 67,895,034 pressed brick, valued at \$807,294, or an average value per thousand of \$11.89; the total of the two classes being 695,610,353, valued at \$5,912,648. The production of ornamental brick in 1910 was 703,345, valued at \$16,092; and of fireproofing and architectural terra-cotta, \$176,979.

The increase in production of fireproofing has been particularly marked, and is due to the establishment of new plants, including the National Fire Proofing Company of Canada at Hamilton, Ont., and the Alberta Clay Products Company, Limited, of Medicine Hat, Alta.

The demand for brick has been very strong, particularly throughout the west, where numbers of plants are being increased in capacity and many new plants either contemplated or in course of construction.

Exports Are Very Small.

The exports have never been large, averaging for a number of years past about \$6,000 in value per annum, but falling in 1910 and 1911 to \$2,762 and \$3,977, respectively, according to the latest report of Mr. J. McLeish, B.A., chief of the division of mineral resources and statistics. The annual imports for a number of years previous to 1903 averaged only about \$20,000 in value. During the past eight years, however, the imports have rapidly increased from \$100,000 to nearly \$500,000 per annum. During the calendar year 1911 the imports were 51,102,000 brick, valued at \$475,865; of which 6,404,000, valued at \$72,675, or an average of \$11.35 per thousand, were imported from Great Britain; and 44,698,000, valued at \$403,190, or an average of \$9.02 per thousand, from the United States. The imports during the calendar year 1910 were 29,049,000 brick, valued at \$274,482; of which 1,993,000, valued at \$26,447, or an average of \$13.27 per thousand, were imported from Great Britain; and 27,056,000, valued at \$248,035, or an average of \$9.45 per thousand, from the United States.

Production of Paving Brick.

The total production of paving brick and paving blocks in Canada in 1911 was reported as 5,220,400, valued at \$79,444, as compared with a production of 4,215,000, valued at \$78,980 in 1910.

This paving brick is made at West Toronto, Ont., from shale obtained from the banks of the Humber River. The annual production has for a number of years varied from 3,000,000 to over 5,000,000 per season, and the output finds a market chiefly in Toronto. The average price per thousand has varied from \$8 to \$20.

The imports of paving brick have during the past three years exceeded the domestic production. During the calendar year 1911 the imports were 11,450 thousand, valued at \$164,292, or \$14.34 per thousand, and included 4,988 thousand, valued at \$78,201, or \$15.68 per thousand, from the United States, and 6,462 thousand, valued at \$86,091, or \$13.32 per thousand, from Great Britain. The imports during the calendar year 1910 were 10,503 thousand, valued at \$124,994.

Sixteen Firms Produce Sand-Lime Brick.

The manufacture of sand-lime or silica brick, although of comparatively recent origin in Canada, has developed with considerable rapidity during the past five years, for which statistics have been collected.

Returns received from sixteen producing firms showed total sales in 1911 of 51,535,243 brick, valued at \$442,427, or an average of \$8.58 per thousand, as compared with a production of 44,593,541 brick, valued at \$371,857, or an average of \$8.34 per thousand, by thirteen firms in 1910.

The total sales by nine firms in 1909 were 27,052,864 brick, valued at \$201,650, or an average of \$7.45 per thousand.

The number of men employed in 1911 was 337, and wages paid, \$166,902.

FARMERS BANK AFFAIRS

At another special sitting in the Farmers Bank enquiry in Toronto, Sir William Meredith heard the evidence of W. R. Travers, Dr. John Ferguson, Alexander Fraser, A. S. Lown, and Accountant Fitzgibbon in regard to the method used in raising a part of the \$250,000 deposited with the Treasury Board by loans secured on subscribers' notes, and also in regard to an allotment of stock which occurred subsequently to an announcement of it. In regard to the first matter, Mr. Travers testified that all of the provisional directors were aware that the money had been raised by discounting subscribers' notes, but could offer no light on the second question. He could not recall the circumstances of the transaction. Asked for an explanation of the fact that the organizing expenses, given in the minutes as \$44,403.65, were reported to the shareholders as amounting only to \$41,291, and in the bank's books as \$32,127, he could offer little explanation, but stated that Mr. Fitzgibbon was at the time making adjustments to make the books balance. Neither could the accountant explain the matter.

Mr. A. S. Lown said that he had taken no pains to check the figures of the bank's minutes and reports, and in regard to the money raised upon the notes, stated that he knew merely that it was obtained upon these notes, not the means used of getting it. He had no recollection of a resolution authorizing the endorsement of notes to the provisional directors for the purpose of raising money for deposit with the Treasury Board.

Mr. W. H. Thurston, K.C., assistant Crown prosecutor, states that the case of Dr. Beattie Nesbitt, who is charged with five different offences under the Bank Act, will not be tried for the present. Mr. Thurston declined to say whether or not the Crown would allow Mr. H. Hartley Dewart, K.C., to plead for Dr. Nesbitt in his absence. It is doubtful whether Dr. Nesbitt will be able to appear in court on account of his physical condition. The indictment against him will stand.

A memorial will be presented at Ottawa by the shareholders and depositors of the Farmers Bank. This memorial, which has been prepared by the counsel representing the shareholders and depositors, recites the history of the organization of the bank, and sets forth many reasons why those who lost their savings in the bank should be reimbursed by the government.

DECEMBER'S COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS

The following are the shipments of ore from Cobalt during December:—

Mine.	Tons.
Bailey Cobalt	20.
Buffalo	184.
Chambers-Ferland	73.2
Cobalt Lake	126.5
Cobalt Townsite	200.2
Colonial	23.3
Coniagas	230.6
Crown Reserve	39.9
Dominion Red	104.7
Drummond	66.8
Hargreaves	17.3
Hudson Bay	30.9
La Rose	386.7
McKinley-Darragh	245.7
Nipissing	86.5
Nipissing Reduction Company	31.2
O'Brien	86.0
Penna. Canadian	30.9
Peterson Lake	241.3
Temiskaming	43.8
Trethewey	72.1
	2,347.6

New Liskeard—	
Casey Cobalt	29.0
Charlton—	
Miller Lake-O'Brien	20.1
Swastika—Gold Ore—	
G. Foster	20.6
Schumacher—Gold Ore—	
Jupiter Mines	2.6
Iroquois Falls—Nickel Ore—	
E. F. Pullen	30.0
North Cobalt—Silver Ore—	
General Mines	32.4

We have reason to congratulate ourselves on the continuing prosperity of the country, which shows no sign of abatement. The present outlook could hardly be better. At the same time, we should be cautious in our optimism.—Mr. H. S. Holt, at Montreal.