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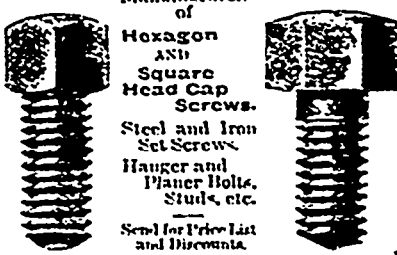
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brittle; a floating stone, which can be readily carded, spun and woven into tissue. In Germany it is known as steinslachs (stone flax), and the miners of Quebec gave it quite an expressive name—pierra coton (cotton stone). The asbestos mines of Quebec are the most famous in the world, yielding eighty-five per cent. of the entire output, Italy being the only competing country, and there the industry is declining. Although Charlemagne is said to have had a tablecloth of asbestos, which he cleansed by throwing into the fire, it was practically unknown until 1850.

The Italian mineral was then experimented with, and some years later put on the market. In 1878 the first Canadian mine was opened and the product steadily increased until 1890, when 9,860 tons, worth \$1,260,000, were mined. There has since been a decline in value, the amount for 1896 being 4,000 tons, worth only \$430,000. Asbestos is flexible, non-combustible and a non-conductor of heat and electricity, and on these properties its increasing use depends. It is spun into yarn, from which cloth is woven for drop curtains in theatres, clothing for firemen, acid workers, etc. It is made into lamp wicks and gloves for stokers, and ropes for fire escapes. It is felted into millboard, to be used as an insulator in dynamos and as a fireproof lining for floors. It is used to insulate electric wires, and as a covering to prevent loss of heat from steam pipes. Mixed with rubber, it is used to pack steam joints.

PROSPERITY OF THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

At a meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade held in St. John, N.B., a few days ago, Mr. W. N. Jarvis, the president, sketched the history of the Maritime Provinces, tracing up the growth of their trade in shipping, manufacturing and agriculture. He drew a roscato picture of the progress the Provinces are now making in the way of manufacturing and in the development of our mineral and other resources. He referred especially to the large pulp mills now being established, sugar refineries, stamping mills, steel and iron works, gold and coal mines of Nova Scotia, also to the growing of apples and small fruits. Last year, the speaker said, Nova Scotia exported 300,000 barrels of apples, and this year she would export 400,000 barrels. He gave credit to the Federal Government for subsidizing steamships to come to the Maritime Provinces, and predicted that the day would come when no subsidies would be required, and the trade of Canada would follow the regular course of finding an outlet through a Canadian port. The speaker also referred to the building of elevators for the handling of grain and of wharves for the accommodation of steamships, which go to show that when true preferential trade is established Canada's products will not find outlet through Portland and Boston. The board, he said, had much yet to do in making the Maritime Provinces known; for it was impossible to pay a visit to the upper Provinces without noticing how little the people there knew of our resources or the kind of country there is down by the sea. The address dealt with many features of trade and commerce.

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