

burning bed on to a light but sufficiently strong truck, and pushed quickly toward the rolling mills. An ingot or "bloom" of the great weight specified is not easy to move, and it is amusing to see the skill with which it is dealt. Wheeled at a white heat up to the "rolls," the mass is at first, as it were, reluctantly accepted, and passes into their jaws with some difficulty. Then it becomes by degrees flatter and flatter, until it seems that it may become a plate. Backward and forward, spurting out flames as the jaws of the rolling-mill close upon it, the great mass of incandescent steel is lined as though it were dough, and flattened out to the required size. As the fiery sheet pours out of the rolls, boys run beside it with brooms soaked in water to wash off the oxidized skin of the metal, and thus leave a clean surface. While this is going on at one set of rolls, others are turning out plates and girders, angles and rods, and the iron floor on which we stand becomes so hot that we are glad to move into a pool of water to cool our burning soles. One by one the great plates are rolled and out on the floor. In the course of rolling they have become stretched a little at the sides, so that they have the look, as they lie red-hot on the ground, of the skins of mighty beasts recently torn from them and flung down by the hunters. Scarlet and crimson in every shade, they are cut by a machine, which makes nothing of their weight and thickness, into the exact parallelograms required for the Fort-bridge and for ship-building purposes, after which they are stacked in heaps ready for delivery.

The Anthracite Coal Pool.

Ever since the Reading Railway Company made known the fact that it would not in the future submit to the periodical suspensions of coal-mining, a discussion has been going on among the coal companies as to the feasibility of some other plan to maintain harmony among the companies and prevent a ruinous competition for business. This discussion culminated on December 19th, in a meeting of the various interests, at the office of the Lehigh Valley Railway Company. There was a large representation present of those connected with the production, preparation, transportation, and sale of anthracite coal. Samuel Sloan, president of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railway Company, presided, and Joseph I. Harris, president of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, acted as secretary. The meeting resulted in an agreement to allot the total anthracite production among the different companies, each company having the right to mine and ship its quota of the total output at its own time. The action of the meeting was embodied in a series of resolutions, that as much anthracite coal as may be produced or required during the coming year should be furnished by the respective companies in proper yearly or monthly quotas; that a committee of three be appointed by the chairman to present a sketch of such proper quotas; that each interest be requested to present to said committee a statement of the proportion of

the business done by it, and that it expects to do during the ensuing year. Messrs. Hoyt of the Pennsylvania Coal Company, Harris of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, and Gowen of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company were appointed as the committee. The representative of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company stated that his company agreed to the resolutions with the express understanding that there should be no moral or legal obligation on them arising from such assent; but the Pennsylvania Railroad Company is not a very important member of the pool, as it mines and ships a comparatively small amount of coal.—*Chicago Journal of Commerce.*

Commercial Travellers' Annual Dinner.

The annual dinner of the North-west Commercial Travellers' Association took place at the Grand Union last Friday evening. About seventy-five members of the association and their friends were present. The dining-room was very nicely decorated with the various national flags, and presented a pleasing picture. A string band was in attendance, and enlivened the affair with its sweet strains. The spread was an excellent one, a characteristic of the hotel. Mr. Thomas Johnson, the new president of the association, occupied the chair, and Messrs. J. J. Fanning and Fred. Chilcott the vice-chairs. Among the guests present were noticed Hon. C. P. Brown, Mayor-elect Hamilton, Kenneth McKenzie, Jos. Mulholland, R. J. Whitla, J. H. Ashdown, W. N. Ronald, J. O'Loughlin, T. G. Lawlor, E. Johnson, A. C. Mathews, A. C. Woods, R. B. Harstone, J. W. Peddie, Capt. Clarke, A. B. Coblenz, D. K. Elliott, James E. Steen, D. L. Mackenzie, E. W. Larmour, George Pereira, J. F. Macfarlin, J. Hastings, J. Douglas, W. Fish, P. T. Ptolemy, T. B. Miller, W. J. Owens, C. Newton, R. E. Thompson, J. Carey, F. Boysean (Brandon), L. G. Pointz, W. Cummings, W. Sherman, Jas. Burridge, Dr. R. B. Ferguson, J. C. McNabb, G. H. Smith.

Dinner being over, the chairman proposed the usual loyal toasts, which were received with enthusiasm, the band playing the National Anthem and "God bless the Prince of Wales."

The next toast proposed was "The United Service—Army, Navy, and Volunteers." The band played "British Grenadiers," and Mr. Ptolemy sang "Rule, Britannia" and Chief Murray "Hearts of Oak." The toast was coupled with the names of Mr. Steen and Capt. Clarke, who during their remarks referred very feelingly to the Canadian voyagers in Egypt. Capt. Whitla was loudly called for, and made a few remarks.

Mr. Ptolemy here favored the company with "The Death of Nelson," after which the toast of "The Senate, the House of Commons, and the Local Legislature" was honored. Hon. Mr. Brown responded to the toast. He spoke of the commercial interests of the country, and assured those present that Hon. Mr. Norquay, now in Ottawa, would fight the battles of the province to the end in endeavoring to secure

the rights to which they were entitled. He thought that if the legislature would devise a scheme to reduce the taxation of the province they would be doing a good act. He predicted a better mercantile relationship between Canada and her neighbors across the line, and contended that it would be more in our favor than it would be to the United States.

After a song by Mr. J. C. McNabb, the vice chairman, Mr. J. J. Fanning, proposed the health of "The Mayor and Council." The toast was received with cheers and the singing of "They are Jolly Good Fellows." Before Mayor Hamilton responded to the toast, Chief Murray sang "The Sweet, Sunny South" in good style. The mayor-elect was received with cheers. He said he was but two days old as a mayor. In no small degree did the mercantile men assist in placing him and his colleagues in such honorable positions. He assured them that the new council would deal with questions that they would meet as well as their ability would permit. He proposed a bright commercial future for our country, and said that its success depended principally upon the efforts of the mercantile fraternity. He concluded an able speech by returning thanks for the hearty manner in which the toast had been received.

The vice-chairman next proposed the health of the late president of the association, Mr. Jos. Mulholland, which was drunk amid much enthusiasm. Mr. W. R. Langridge then stepped forward and read the following address, which was accompanied by a gold-headed cane and a handsome inkstand:

To Joseph Mulholland, Esq.

Dear Sir,—On the occasion of your return from the presidency of the Northwest Commercial Travellers' Association, after having occupied that position for two years, we, the members of this association, desire to express our appreciation of the manner in which you have at all times discharged the duties of the office. We feel that our association has been greatly benefited by your exertions, and cannot allow this opportunity to pass without in some small measure testifying to the esteem which you are held by us, and we beg to accept the accompanying tokens as reminders of the pleasant relations we have sustained together. We wish you every prosperity and happiness.

T. JOHNSON, President.

W. R. LANGRIDGE, Secretary.

On behalf of the association

Mr. Mulholland, on rising to respond, received with great cheering. He always look back with pride to the fact that he was the first president of the Commercial Travellers' Association. He felt that the influence of the association would always be in the province, and assured the association that the presentation had touched a chord in his heart. The young men of the association, he said, had a bright future before them, the field here being much greater than in the eastern provinces. If they aspired to be the merchants of the country, he was sure they would succeed. He closed his remarks