

CEMENT—CONCRETE.

Quebec.

ST. LOUIS.—Much concrete work, in which sidewalks will figure largely, is contemplated by this municipality.

Ontario.

PETERBORO.—Messrs. George A. Begy & Company, of St. Catharines, have been awarded the contract for a large reinforced concrete bridge at Peterborough. They propose to start the work immediately.

TORONTO.—A new cement merger which welds into one company a number of important concerns not included in the big merger recently put through at Montreal, was consummated on the 7th September at a meeting of the various companies interested, held at the offices of Mr. J. R. Roaf, who will act as solicitor for the new organization. The company, which will be known as the Independent Portland Cement Company, Limited, will have a capital stock of \$10,000,000, the head offices being at Toronto. Immediate application will be made for a charter, and as soon as it is obtained officers will be elected and operations commenced.

The companies which have already agreed to enter the merger, and their authorized capitalization, are as follows:—Brant Portland Cement Co., Limited, of Brantford, \$500,000; Colonial Portland Cement Co., Limited, of Wiarion, \$800,000; Hanover Portland Cement Co., Limited, of Hanover, \$500,000; Imperial Cement Co., Limited, of Owen Sound, \$300,000; Ontario Portland Cement Co., Limited, of Paris, \$450,000; Bell's Lake Cement Co., Limited, of Markdale, \$500,000; Superior Cement Co., Limited, of Orangeville, \$500,000; Western Ontario Portland Cement Co., of Atwood, \$500,000, and St. Mary's Portland Cement Co., Limited, of St. Mary's, \$500,000. In addition to these companies, several other concerns are expected to join the merger.

As will be seen, all these companies are located in Western Ontario.

Foreign.

BOSTON, MASS.—The Hood Rubber Co. have placed the contract for their new building at West Watertown, Mass., with the Aberthaw Construction Co., of Boston. It is to be built of reinforced concrete, 96 x 80 feet, three stories high. Provision will be made for future additional stories.

For late construction news see page 314.

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Montreal, September 15th, 1909.

According to all accounts, conditions throughout the United States continue to improve, not alone in the markets for pig-iron, but for steel and for the various products thereof. The price has shown a gradual advance for some time past, and is now firm at the top point, for prompt delivery, and also for next year's delivery. The active buying of railway material continues to be a feature of the situation. The production during the month of August has seldom been exceeded in the past, and any considerable increase during the coming few months would give a volume which would break all previous records. Under the circumstances, with good crops now assured, and with the purchase and production of iron reaching record proportions, and prices gradually advancing, the outlook not only for the iron and steel trade, but for general trade throughout the whole country, is all that was being looked forward to.

In Great Britain, the strongest feature would seem to be the optimism of the United States. There is also the fact that labor troubles, which all season were a bearish factor, have been removed, besides which there is unquestionably a better home demand and a slight picking up of demand from continental sources. Everything considered, the situation in England and Scotland is firm, and producers of pig-iron are able to add a little to prices, from time to time, without limiting the amount of buying but rather adding thereto.

Locally, the situation is unusually promising. The Dominion Iron and Steel, and the Lake Superior Corporation are running their plants at full speed, and the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company is in the same situation, having orders booked for a long time in advance. The Dominion Company is experiencing the best year of its history, the Superior Company is now able to make a large expenditure on the improvement to its plant, and the Nova Scotia Company, by virtue of its new financing, is in a strong position and will doubtless be able to begin dividends before the end of the present year. The result of all this is an added feeling of optimism in the future of the iron and steel trade of Canada.

During the past week, prices have continued steady. No changes of consequence have taken place either in pig-iron or in steel, or in any of the lines in which engineers are interested, so that last week's price list is practically repeated:—

Antimony.—The market is steady at 8 to 8½c.

Bar Iron and Steel.—Prices are steady and trade is quiet. Bar iron, \$1.85 per 100 pounds; best refined horseshoe, \$2.10; forged iron, \$2; mild steel, \$1.85; sleigh shoe steel, \$1.8c for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$1.00 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$2.35; machine steel, iron finish, \$1.90; imported, \$2.20.

Boiler Tubes.—The market is steady, quotations being as follows:—1½ and 2-inch tubes, 8½c; 2½-inch, 10c; 3-inch, 11½c; 3½-inch, 14 1-2c; 4-inch, 18 1-2c.

Building Paper.—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounces, \$1.80 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, 40c. per roll of 400 square

feet; dry sheathing, No. 1, 30 to 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; tarred fibre, 55c. per roll; dry fibre, 45c. (See Roofing; also Tar and Pitch).

Cement.—Canadian cement is quotable, as follows, in car lots, f.o.b., Montreal:—\$1.30 to \$1.40 per 350-lb. bbl., in 4 cotton bags, adding 10c. for each bag. Good bags re-purchased at 10c. each. Paper bags cost 2½ cents extra, or 10c. per bbl. weight.

Chain.—Prices are as follows:—¼-inch, \$5.10; 5-16-inch, \$3.95, ¾-inch, \$3.55; 7-16-inch, \$3.35; ½-inch, \$3.20; 9-16-inch, \$3.05; 5/8-inch, \$2.95; ¾-inch, \$2.90; 7/8-inch, \$2.85; 1-inch, \$2.85.

Coal and Coke.—Anthracite, egg, stove or chestnut coal, \$6.75 per ton, net; furnace coal, \$6.50, net. Bituminous or soft coal: Run of mine, Nova Scotia coal, carload lots, basis, Montreal, \$3.85 to \$4 per ton; cannel coal, \$9 per ton; coke, single ton, \$5; large lots, special rates, approximately \$4 f.o.b., cars, Montreal.

Copper.—Prices are strong at 1¼% to 1½%.

Explosives and Accessories.—Dynamite, 50-lb. cases, 40 per cent. proof, 15c. in single case lots, Montreal. Blasting powder, 25-lb. kegs, \$2.25 per keg. Special quotations on large lots of dynamite and powder. Detonator caps, case lots, containing 10,000, 75c. per 100; broken lots, \$1; electric blasting apparatus:—Batteries, 1 to 10 holes, \$15; 1 to 20 holes, \$25; 1 to 30 holes, \$35; 1 to 40 holes, \$50. Wire, leading, 1c. per foot; connecting, 50c. per lb. Fuses, platinum, single strength, per 100 fuses:—4-ft. wires, \$3; 6-ft. wires, \$3.54; 8-ft. wires, \$4.08; 10-ft. wires, \$5. Double strength fuses, 4-ft., \$3.75; 6-ft., \$4.29; 8-ft., \$4.83; 10-ft., \$5.37. Fuses, time, double-tape, \$6 per 1,000 feet; explometers, fuse and circuit, \$7.50 each.

Iron.—Swedish iron, 100 lbs., \$4.75 base; sheet, black, 14 to 22 gauge, \$3.75; 24-gauge, \$3.90; 26-gauge, \$4; 28-gauge, \$4.10. Galvanized—American, 18 to 20-gauge, \$4.40; 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.65; 26-gauge, \$4.65; 28-gauge, \$4.90; 30-gauge, \$5.15 per 100 lbs. Queen's Head, 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.65; 26-gauge English, or 30-gauge American, \$4.90; 30-gauge American, \$5.15; Fleur de Lis, 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.50; 26-gauge American, \$4.75; 30-gauge American, \$5.

Galvanized Iron.—The market is steady. Prices, basis, 28-gauge, are:—Queen's Head, \$4.40; Comet, \$4.25; Gorbals Best, \$4.25; Apollo, 10½ oz., \$4.35. Add 25c. to above figures for less than case lots; 26-gauge is 10c. less than 28-gauge. American 28-gauge and English 26 are equivalents, as are American 10½ oz., and English 28-gauge.

Galvanized Pipe.—(See Pipe, Wrought and Galvanized).

Iron.—The outlook is strong. The following prices are for carload quantities and over, free on dock, Montreal, prompt delivery: No. 1 Summerlee, \$20 to \$20.50; selected Summerlee, \$19.50 to \$20; soft Summerlee, \$19 to \$19.50; Clarence, \$17.50 to \$17.75; Midland or Hamilton pig is quoted at \$20.50 to \$21, Montreal. It is said Dominion and Scotia companies are not quoting prompt delivery. Carron special, \$19.50 to \$20; Carron, soft, \$19.25.

Laths.—See Lumber, etc.

Lead.—Prices are about steady, at \$3.50 to \$3.60.

Lead Wool.—\$10.50 per hundred, \$200 per ton, f.o.b., factory.

Lumber, Etc.—Prices on lumber are for car lots, to contractors, at mill points, carrying a freight rate of \$1.50. Red pine, mill culls out, \$18 to \$22 per 1,000 feet; white pine, mill culls, \$16 to \$17. Spruce, 1-in. by 4-in. and up, \$15 to \$17 per 1,000 ft.; mill culls, \$12 to \$14. Hemlock, log run, culls out, \$13 to \$15. Railway Ties; Standard Railway Ties, hemlock or cedar, 35 to 45c. each, on a 5c. rate to Montreal. Telegraph Poles: Seven-inch top, cedar poles, 25-ft. poles, \$1.35 to \$1.50 each; 30-ft., \$1.75 to \$2; 35-ft., \$2.75 to \$3.25 each, at manufacturers' points, with 5c. freight rate to Montreal. Laths: Quotations per 1,000 laths, at points carrying \$1.50 freight rate to Montreal, \$2 to \$3. Shingles: Cedar shingles, same conditions as laths, X, \$1.50; XX, \$2.50; XXX, \$3.

Nails.—Demand for nails is better, but prices are steady at \$2.30 per keg for cut, and \$2.25 for wire, base prices. Wire roofing nails, 5c. lb.

Paints.—Roof, barn and fence paint, 90c. per gallon; girder, bridge, and structural paint for steel or iron—shop or field—\$1.20 per gallon, in barrels; liquid red lead in gallon cans, \$1.75 per gallon.

Pipe.—Cast Iron.—The market is unsettled and uncertain, as dealers are compelled to meet competition from all sources. Prices are easy and approximately as follows:—\$31 for 6 and 8-inch pipe and larger; \$32 for 5-inch and 4-inch at the foundry. Pipe, specials, \$3 per 100 pounds. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

Pipe.—Wrought and Galvanized.—Demand is much better and the tone is firm, though prices are steady, moderate-sized lots being: ¼-inch, \$5.50 with 63 per cent. off for black, and 48 per cent. off for galvanized; ½-inch, \$5.50, with 59 per cent. off for black and 44 per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$8.50, with 69 per cent. off for black, and 59 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 72½ per cent. off for black, and 62½ per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$11.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1½-inch, \$22.50; 1¾-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; 2½-inch, \$57.50; 3-inch, \$75.50; 3½-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

Plates and Sheets.—Steel.—The market is steady. Quotations are: \$2.20 for 3-16; \$2.30 for ¼, and \$2.10 for ½ and thicker; 12-gauge being \$2.30; 14-gauge, \$2.15; and 16-gauge, \$2.10.

Rails.—Quotations on steel rails are necessarily only approximate and depend upon specification, quantity and delivery required. A range of \$30.50 to \$31 is given for 60-lb. and 70-lb.; 80-lb. and heavier, being \$30; rails, per gross ton of 2,240 lbs., f.o.b. mill. Re-laying rails are quoted at \$27 to \$29 per ton, according to condition of rail and location.

Railway Ties.—See lumber, etc.

Roofing.—Ready roofing, two-ply, 70c. per roll; three-ply, 95c. per roll of 100 square feet. Roofing tin caps, 6c. lb; wire roofing nails, 5c. lb. (See Building Paper; Tar and Pitch; Nails, Roofing).

Rope.—Prices are steady, at 9c. per lb. for sisal, and 10½c. for Manila. Wire rope, crucible steel, six-strands, nineteen wires; ¼-in., \$2.75; 5-16, \$3.75; ¾, \$4.75; ¾, \$5.25; ¾, \$6.25; ¾, \$8; ¾, \$10; 1-in., \$12 per 100 feet.

Spikes.—Railway spikes are steady at \$2.35 per 100 pounds, base of 1½ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at \$2.85 per 100 pounds, base of ¾ x 10-inch, and ¾ x 12-inch.

Steel Shafting.—Prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is on the dull side.

Telegraph Poles.—See lumber, etc.

Tar and Pitch.—Coal tar, \$3.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing about 500 pounds; roofing pitch, No. 1, 70c. per 100 pounds; and No. 2, 55c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$8.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, and \$4.75 per half-barrel; refined coal tar, \$4.50 per barrel; pine pitch, \$4 per barrel of 180 to 200 pound. (See building paper; also roofing).

Tin.—Prices are unchanged, at 33½ to 34c.

Zinc.—The tone is steady, at 5½ to 6c.

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Toronto, September 16th, 1909.

Wholesale trade in metals and hardware shows a more active pace, the almost realized prospects of the former making "all hands" more or less buoyant. Builders' materials are in fair demand in Ontario, while in the city bricks and lumber are still moving freely. Cement is not active in Ontario, the market being greatly depressed. Glowing accounts of what the "merger" of plants is to accomplish in the way of economy and stimulus are beginning to appear in the daily papers; but up to date they have not helped the price which is extremely low and unsatisfactory. In camp supplies the only noteworthy feature is an advance of 10c. in sugars.

The following are wholesale prices for Toronto, where not otherwise explained, although for broken quantities higher prices are quoted:—