

such as black and galvanized sheets, pipe, tubes, and wire products.

There is a rather firmer tone in both foundry and steel-making iron. More pig has been imported. One feature of interest has been the transfer of one or two basic furnaces to foundry ores recently. The advance and excitement in the market for British iron has been attributed to heavy purchases on American account, as well as to exports to Germany. . . . However, the withdrawals from English warrant yards have been of sufficient volume to increase the confidence of holders and whatever the cause, a stronger feeling has been developed in all makes. The advance in Cleveland warrants was about 3s. in the week.

It would seem that Canada is getting an increased proportion of orders for iron and steel goods filled in Britain that would naturally have gone to the States if promptly filled. We hear that the largest importation of cast iron pipe and columns ever landed in Montreal arrived on the "Marina" on Sunday last from Glasgow.

Metals generally are very firm; the speculative markets are pursuing their upward course with no sign of a re-action.

While the sharp advance in tin during the last week had a speculative origin, there has not been wanting a firm foundation in the statistical developments. The market has been wholly under the domination of London operators, with local spot supplies practically cornered. The New York market advanced about 2 cents, and at the close spot tin is difficult to buy at 42.60 cents.

In copper, the market has been somewhat jerky, and transactions last week were not large. Electrolytic sold at 24 to 24½c., cash, New York; some sales were made of casting grades to domestic consumers for nearby delivery at 22¾c. London cable on Monday showed £104 opening and £103 5s. closing price for spot Standard. Lead dull and lower, spot held at 6c. in car lots; London shows slight decline, soft Spanish closing at £19 17s. 6d.

Antimony has been freely offered and lower, but it is now claimed that 18c. is bid for Hallett's spot, yet firm offers of 17 and 17½c. for importation would probably be accepted; ordinary brands, 17 to 18c. spot. Nickel is steady at 40 to 47c. for round lots down to a ton, and 50 to 60c. for smaller quantities.

The new steamer "Coruna," built for the Canada Lake Line, left Middlesboro', Eng., for Toronto on Thursday last carrying a cargo of 1,000 tons of pig iron.

At a time like this, when factory-building and house-building is so active, mechanics and builders' laborers have an excellent chance by steady working to lay aside good money at the generally good wages. But it appears that they are resolved to make further trouble. The structural iron workers have demanded higher wages, and the sheet metal workers are having a conference, the marble workers want 5c. per hour increase from 9th June. Then the plumbers, steam and gas fitters have asked from the master plumbers an advance in wages to 45c. per hour after 14th May, the present scale being 37½c. per hour, though in many instances more is paid. The masters are determined to resist the demand. It is a refreshing thing to find, among all this unrest and exaction, one body of workers who are satisfied with their wages: these are the tile layers, who get 40c. an hour.

The lumber market is distinctly firm: demand for all sorts is greater than the supply. It is to be remembered that much of our product that used to go to the United States is now in request among ourselves, and building lumber brings prices here to-day that remove any temptation to sell it to the Americans. Stocks of all kinds are fairly maintained, the thing which is mainly in short supply is sound dressing slips, for which the demand has been abnormal, because of extensive building of railway cars. Hemlock, no longer a despised wood, but of recognized value, takes the place of pine to some extent for joists, rafters, and flooring for cheaper houses. It cannot, however, replace pine for such work as doors and windows.

We quote prices at Toronto as under:—

American Bessemer Sheet Steel.—14 gauge, \$2.60; 17, 18 and 20 gauge, \$2.80; 22 and 24 gauge, \$2.90; 26 gauge, \$3; 28 gauge, \$3.25.

Bar Iron.—\$2.30 from stock to the wholesale dealer.

Boiler Heads.—25c. per 100 pounds advance on boiler plate.

Boiler Tubes.—Lap-welded steel, 2-in., \$9.10; 2¼-in., \$10.85; 2½-in., \$12; 3-in., \$13.50; 3½-in., \$16.70; 4-in., \$21, per 100 ft.

Cement.—Star brand, \$1.95 per barrel, i.o.b., Kingston.

Ingot Copper.—Large enquiry for refined, but market easier in New York and London; Toronto price, 26½c.

Lead.—Firmer and supply insufficient; \$5.50 for pig.

Steel Boiler Plates.—¼-in. and heavier, \$2.50.

Steel Rails.—80 lb., \$33 to \$36 per ton.

Sheet Steel.—Firm, 10 gauge, \$2.70; 12 gauge, \$2.80.

Tank Plate.—3-16-in., \$2.65.

Tin.—Unchanged in price; 43½ for pig.

Tool Steel.—Jowitt's special pink label, 10½c. per pound.

Wrought Steam and Water Pipe.—Trade prices per 100 pounds are: Black, ¼ and ¾-in., \$2.26; ½-in., \$2.72; ¾-in., \$3.57; 1-in., \$5.12; 1¼-in., \$6.98; 1½-in., \$8.37; 2-in., \$11.16; 2½-in., \$18; 3-in., \$23.50. Galvanized, ¼ and ¾-in., \$3.08; ½-in., \$3.57; ¾-in., \$4.72; 1-in., \$6.77; 1¼-in., \$9.23; 1½-in., \$11.07; 2-in., \$14.76; 3½-in., blk., \$30; 4-in., \$34.

Zinc.—Steady at previous prices; slab, \$7; sheet, \$8; antimony, Cooksons, \$25.

MINING IN NOVA SCOTIA.

During the year ending September 30, 1906, the mineral production of Nova Scotia shows only a nominal increase over the previous year. Gold, manganese ore and beyrites decreasing somewhat. In 1905, 73,600 tons of iron ore were produced as against 648,042 tons in 1906. Coal raised in 1905 amounted to 5,050,420 tons, and in 1906, 5,866,605 tons. The total revenue of the mines department for the year was \$643,457. This was received from licences, rentals, and gold and coal royalties. The bonuses paid on coal consumed in the manufacture of iron and steel in the province totalled \$64,954. There was a slight increase on the amount of coal sold, the total being 5,194,590 tons, of which 1,962,206 tons were sold within the province. 12,123 men were engaged in the industry. From 1857 the coal sales in Nova Scotia have increased from 300,000 to 5,040,000 tons. The greatest increase having taken place from 1897, when the output was 3,000,000 tons.

Gold Output.

The average yearly output of gold since 1862 until 1906 has been 20,000 ounces, the highest output being in 1898 when it amounted to 31,000 ounces. In 1906 the output was not quite 15,000 ounces. Twenty mines were in active operation, and a number of individual mines also contributed to the total output. As near as can be calculated 363 men were engaged in gold mining in the province during the year.

An innovation of the Nova Scotia Mining Department that has proved very successful is the renting out of rock drills. The investment having proved a very successful one. During the year 2,839 ft. 9 inches of holes were bored at a total cost (including storehouse and miscellaneous expenses) of \$5,927. This cost for maintenance would at first sight appear to be rather high, but when the sum of \$3,316, which amount is charged to capital account is deducted, the cost per foot is not at all excessive. In 1905 the cost of drilling per foot was \$1.26, while last year it was only \$1.08, a reduction of 18c. per foot. The department has in operation seven drills.

Taken as a whole, the report of the Nova Scotia Department of Mines is very exhaustive, and should bring to the mind of the lay reader a clear idea of what is being done in the mining industries of that province. Mr. Wm. T. Piper is Commissioner of Public Works and Mines.

OBITUARY.

Alfred J. Belcher, C.E., of Peterborough, died on April 29th. Mr. Belcher was a noted engineer, being employed on the Crow's Nest Pass Railway, the Trent Canal, and important municipal works in California. He was 52 years old, the son of a civil engineer, and had four brothers in the same profession.