

ments which show that some malign influence, in the very port itself, has been working against the interest of the Montreal harbor and of the trade of the country. In a letter in the Montreal Gazette, which purports to be, and no doubt is, written by a member of the Corn Exchange, we read: "The Montreal Elevator Company and the Montreal Transportation Company have had a long innings, and the shareholders have become rich out of the profits extracted from the shippers for the transportation of grain; and instead of developing their fleets they have been quite content to use old tonnage, twenty and thirty and even forty years old, which are quite unsuitable for modern requirements, while the floating elevators are a discredit to the port." And then the question is asked: "Is it not a fact that the Allan Line put in an application for a lease of the new pier for fifty years, with the right to build an elevator for their own use?" If this be true, it is surely about time these moss covered abuses came to an end?

#### THE CANNED GOODS MARKET.

The season of 1899 has been a phenomenal one for the industry of fruit and vegetable canning in Canada. Not only has a larger quantity than usual been put up, but consumption has in some lines out-run even this large pack. There were several directions in particular in which buyers seemed at one time to make a dead set at all there was in sight. Of Indian corn, of which hundreds of thousands or cases were put up, there is so little now left that it is predicted the last will be gone before next year's crop comes into market. Tomatoes, while hardly so scarce as corn, are in a very limited supply. Peas, though constituting but a small pack as compared with the foregoing two items, have sold well. There is a marked improvement in the quality of Canadian canned peas within a very few years. They are more delicate and of better color as a rule, indicating that the packers have learned by experience at what stage of growth to pull them, and that they have been making chemical experiments as to the retention of color.

The rise in price of corn and tomatoes has been striking. Some months ago corn could be had freely at 65 cts. per case, to-day it is worth \$1.05 and firm. Tomatoes have advanced from less than 70 cts. to a round 85 and 90 cts. Peas, while firm have not shown such a rise. Fruits are in rather better relative supply at present. Peaches, it is true, are high in price and very firm, while strawberries, raspberries and cherries cannot be called plentiful.

Very remarkable progress has been made in the business of canning fruits and vegetables amongst us. While it is true that the development of fruit canning generally has not kept pace with the putting up of peas, corn and tomatoes, yet in the preserving of apples there has been a very marked increase. There is a big demand for canned apples in the Northwest, and even in the older Provinces. A considerable quantity is also sold in England. Said Mr. Wellington Boulter last week, who is known to be one of the first authorities on the subject of canned goods: "One and a half million dollars was distributed amongst the farmers of the Bay of Quinte during the past season for fruit, corn, peas, tomatoes, etc., taken by the canning factories." If this be true of the district named—which covers several of the Midland counties of Ontario—what sum of money will represent the disbursements of the Province for fruit and vegetables, fresh or canned? What of the Hamilton and Dundas territory; what of the famed Niagara district; what of Essex, Middlesex, Oxford—a dozen counties? The extent and value of our fruit producing districts is none too well known.

It is probable that the astonishing demand from the Klondike for canned vegetables and fruit within the past two years has interfered with export of these products to Europe. That demand absorbed great quantities. One dealer sent in 1896 to Dawson City six carloads—the first shipment to go into that district; and this year the same gentleman says he has sent no fewer than fifteen carloads to Nelson, Rossland, Kaslo and Grand Forks, B.C. Evidently, therefore, the mining towns are a large and sure market for canned vegetables and fruit. There is, Mr. Boulter tells us, a prospect for the opening up of a very large trade with England, and not only with England but with Germany. He adds that he has put up fourteen tons of fruit pulp this year, and one ton is about to be sent to England, by way of introduction. This fruit pulp is presumably for use by jam-makers.

#### TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

This important subject is attracting attention in Canada as attested by various utterances and publications which we have lately received. Noteworthy among these are the Convocation address of President Loudon, of the University of Toronto, which is devoted to this subject; the report of the Council of the Board of Trade, dated December 8th, and an address by Mr. James D. Allan, of Toronto, on "Technical Education from a Business Standpoint." To these we purpose devoting some space.

It is well, at the outset, to make clear what is meant by technical education. While the word technical is understood by many to apply to the fine arts, such as painting, drawing, sculpture, it should be borne in mind that it applies also to the useful arts and manufactures. Indeed it is in its application to the latter that it is in question here. President Loudon premises that while the term technical education is applied to any course of training for a trade or profession, he uses it to mean "instruction in those principles of science and art which are applicable to industrial pursuits." We in Ontario are not unfamiliar with technical education as found in the work of the School of Practical Science, the Art Schools, and the Toronto Technical School. But this is "higher instruction," and does not reach the class that should be aimed at. It is the instruction of the artisan, and the commercial employee that is most needed; for in this grade the contrast is most glaring as between us and England or between us and Germany.

In Germany, the schools which give the lowest technical training "vary according to locality and prevailing industries," which is in marked contrast to what seems to be a leading principle in the schools of Ontario, for here, it seems, a teacher is expected to cram the same variety of subjects into the heads of 100 pupils where only 25 may be capable of receiving them all, or of using them to advantage if learned. At Nurnberg, for example, in the technical division, where arithmetic, mensuration, economics, chemistry and drawing are taught, "wood-workers, metal-workers, lithographers and painters have special courses of drawing, but waiters take French instead of drawing; bakers and butchers are very properly relieved of drawing." In Hamburg, where last year out of 3,042 pupils 2,424 were apprentices or helpers, forty trades being represented in the school, 486 were schoolboys taking special subjects, such as drawing. There is a separate school for the building trades, attended by bricklayers, stonemasons and carpenters. It is directed by an architect, and the men or lads receive instruction which tends to make them better workmen. At Mittweida, in Saxony, again, is a school for the training of men as mechanical and electrical engi-