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rates are much cheaper. It can be landed in Ottawa for about one-third less than cement brought from the United States.

The long duration of winter is a great drawback to a larger consumption of Portland cement in Canada. For five or six months of each year cement cannot be used for outdoor work.

Consul Myers writes from St. John, N. B.: The amount of Portland cement imported annually at this port is about 10,000 barrels of 350 pounds each.

The wholesale price is \$1.75 to \$2.25 per barrel, duty included, and the retail price, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per barrel.

Shipping facilities: Either by vessels from European ports and New York, Boston, or Philadelphia, or by rail from the latter cities and points on the Canadian Pacific and the Maine Central railroads.

The rate of duty is 12½ cents per 100 pounds, weight of bag, barrel, or cask being included in the charge.

Belgium and England supply the greater part of the Portland cement used here. Cement imported in barrels finds the readiest sale. That from the United States is packed generally in sacks, and for this reason is not so favorably regarded.

Consul Smith of Victoria, B.C., writes: The imports of Portland cement into this district have increased largely during the past few years, having risen since 1897 from 1,000 barrels to 10,000 barrels. During the present year the receipts were somewhat over the latter amount. In addition, there have been about 2,500 barrels brought here by British naval vessels, for use at the Esquimalt naval station, which do not appear in the custom house returns. The value of the registered imports of Portland cement into this district during the year ended June 30, 1900, was \$14,718.

The cement used here is almost exclusively of English manufacture. It is brought around Cape Horn in sailing vessels as ballast at nominal rates of freight, largely by ships which have carried salmon from this port to England and would otherwise return to Victoria without cargoes. For this reason much of the cement used in Seattle and other nearby American cities is supplied from Victoria.

The lowest price at which Portland cement has been sold here during the present year is \$3.30 per barrel of 400 pounds, in large quantities, the average being \$3.35 per barrel; in small quantities \$3.50 to \$3.65 per barrel is the market price.

The matter of introducing Portland cement into Vancouver Island is largely one of freights, which are nearly prohibitive. The rate from St. Paul to Victoria is 80 cents per 100 pounds, which would be \$3.20 per barrel. To this must be added the cost of transportation to St. Paul from any interior point in the United States and the Canadian duty of 12½ cents per 100 pounds.

An American syndicate, composed largely of owners of cement works in Chicago and New York, has recently bought land in the vicinity of Sidney, on

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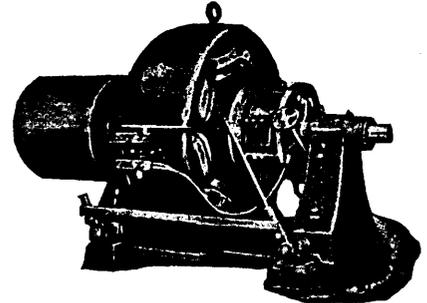
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