

such as result from forcing together misfit pieces. It should not pass through a floor or partition, or through any space in which it cannot be seen, for in such a situation it may part a joint or form holes by rusting. The ash dump must not be in a wooden barrel or box, nor against the side of an outhouse.

Small gas stoves, he goes on to say, should not be set upon wooden tables or floors without a piece of metal directly under them. Rubber tube connections for gas stoves are prohibited by ordinances in some towns, and should be in all because of the loss of life and property chargeable to them.

Another matter should be given attention to, not only in summer, but of course at all times of the year. In the bedrooms it should be seen that the gas brackets are so placed that a jet cannot come in contact with the dresser or with lace curtains. Swinging jets should be protected by globes and no brackets should be within a foot of a window. The plugs in unused stove-pipe holes are often misfits as shown by the wall around them being smoked, and some times the paper hanger covers such holes with the plug out. The choking of flues from disintegrated mortar is a common danger where natural gas is used. Floor sweepings left under furniture or in closets constitute a danger from spontaneous combustion or flying sparks or match-heads.

THE HALF-YEAR'S FIRE WASTE.

The fire loss in the United States and Canada, as compiled in the office of the New York Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin, was more than a million dollars in excess of the same period in 1904, though when one looks at the total for the half-year the result is more gratifying, showing a very great reduction. However, this was owing to the great conflagrations in Toronto and Baltimore which took place last year. As a matter of fact, the loss for the first half of the present year is nine and a half million dollars greater than for the same period of 1903. The figures for the present year up to date are summarized as follows:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.
January	\$13,166,350	\$21,790,200	\$16,378,100
February	16,090,800	90,951,000	25,591,000
March	9,907,650	11,212,150	14,715,400
April	13,549,000	23,623,000	11,901,350
May	16,306,800	15,221,400	12,736,250
June	14,684,350	10,646,700	11,789,800
Total six mos...	\$83,754,950	\$172,534,450	\$93,111,900

THE SUGAR SITUATION.

The preserving season having started in earnest, and the prices of sugar having previously fallen to a more normal basis, there is every prospect for a good consumptive demand for sugar in this country. The only change of recent note is the decline of Acadia granulated to 5 cents per quintal lower than Montreal granulated. The movement now both from Toronto and Montreal is quite fair; in fact, the usual average would now appear to have been reached. As we go to press, tidings reach us of a 10 cent decline in all grades of granulated sugar in New York.

In Europe the feeling is still weak and prices last week went down to 10s. 11¼d. for the July option, the lowest we believe which has been reached this

year. Since the decline, however, a measure of comparative firmness set in, due to reports of excessive temperature on the continent. No reports of actual damage therefrom, however, have yet come to hand.

According to advices from New York, the only new features in the situation worthy of mention are the continued absence of the principal buyers from the market, the increased demand for refined, which has been brought about by the recent reduction in prices, and the course of the European beet market. In view of the heavy premiums that have prevailed for some time on August beets and the poor demand for refined, the principal buyers have been operating very cautiously for the past two months, and their attitude has not changed much, although the above premium has been considerably reduced. Owing to the small purchases made during the past two months, refiners' stocks have decreased, and are now smaller than they were last year at the same time. The recent reduction in refined sugar has brought the difference in prices between raws and refined to a very reasonable figure. The Cubans still refuse to part with the balance of their crop at present prices. The New York refiners have succeeded in getting their quotation down to 4¼c., but their stocks are becoming low, and it looks as if they will have to buy soon. It is believed that the elimination of the unsettled and speculative element, which has distinguished the sugar market for so long, has been accomplished, and that now healthier conditions will prevail. This will affect the Canadian as well as the New York market.

It is understood that the Canadian sugar refiners in Montreal have discontinued the allowance to West Indian exporters of the one-half of the preference of 33 1-3 per cent. allowed by the Dominion Government on raw sugar from those Islands. It would appear that the refiners have gained more from the preference than either producers or consumers.

THE MANUFACTURERS' TRIP.

The path of the Canadian Manufacturers' Convention through the British Isles reads like a sort of triumphal march, where the pick of the land, from their Majesties the King and Queen, and the leaders in politics and thought, down to the general populace, delight to show honor to their relatives from across the seas. Now they have gone to France, and the citizens of Calais and Paris seem as anxious to show the trippers the sights and give them a right royal good time as those in England and in Scotland.

We wonder what impression they, or rather the presentation, of their views in the person of Mr. George, made on Mr. Chamberlain and the other distinguished exponents of tariff matters, and we wonder what impression the British tariff reformers made—really made—on the Canadian manufacturers. Neither side can complain as to lack of opportunity to make the other thoroughly acquainted with its views. These views, however, generally require a period of "soaking in" in order to become thoroughly digested, and properly appraised in due relation to contrary ones. Perhaps by the time the conveners return to their native haunts the process will have been completed, and we shall know more about it. In the meantime we rejoice, in common with other Canadians, that their opportunities for gaining information and pleasure have been so immense.

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