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ANOTHER "JUST SO" STORY.

Once on a time, O Best Beloved, there was an Affluent Individual known familiarly as Uncle Sam. He had his abode in a Great Country wherein was found Everything that man Wants, not to mention a Great Deal that he Ought Not to Want, but Does. Now, Uncle Sam was a very Nice Old Party, and so Trustful that, with the advice of those he counted Great, Wise, and Eminent, he Built a Tariff Wall all around his country and said to his People: "Behold, this wall is for your Protection, and I Trust you not to Chase Each Other about inside it." And hearing this there was some that Shut one Eye while Keeping the other Open, a strange proceeding, O Best Beloved, and one the meaning of which has not been revealed unto me. And time passed, and Uncle Sam waxed ever more Trustful, until he Trusted even those who herded the Cattle and delved for the Coal, and he was made to Pay, Pay, Pay, which he did with a Cheerful Countenance, for as I have related unto you he had an Exceeding Abundance of the Wherewithal, and when the Wherewithal is made with Ease, it goeth likewise with Facility. But it came to pass that, one Hard Winter time, those who were Overseers of the Mines quarrelled with those who went into the Bowels of the Earth to dig, and there arose a Coal Famine, and Uncle Sam waxed Cold, for it was a land where there was Snow and Ice. And, behold, he sat with his feet on the Mantelpiece and used his Intelligence. And, suddenly, he replaced his Feet below his Head, even as a man should wear them, for he had Conceived a Brilliant Idea. And he called together his Great, Wise and Eminent Men and spoke Winged Words unto them. And they all Agreed with

one Voice that He was too Trustful and that they were even as the Witless in that they had Built a Wall so high that Coal from the Lands over the Seas could not be brought in. And they hasted unto the House wherein they made their laws, and decreed that the Wall should be Removed. And they removed it, O Beloved of my Bosom, and Behold it was Good. And they rejoiced exceedingly therat and Roasted Chestnuts on Coal from a place called Newcastle until the Evening.—Commercial Intelligence.

THE Pittsburg Steel Company is going to establish a branch at Hamilton, Ont., rumor saying that a contract for power has already been signed with the Cataract Power Co.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, October 7th, 1903.

Ashes.—There is no increase in receipts, and desirable lots of first pots readily bring from \$5.90 to \$5.95. There is a continued absence of business in second pots, and pearl ashes.

Dairy Products.—The easiness in the cheese market referred to in last report developed into quite a notable decline, present prices being fully from $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a cent lower than a week ago, but quotations are now fairly steady at $11\frac{1}{2}$ to $11\frac{3}{4}$ c. for fine Westerns; Townships, about $11\frac{3}{4}$ c., and Quebec 11 to $11\frac{1}{4}$ c. Butter is barely so firm as a week ago, $21\frac{1}{2}$ c. being about the limit for fine Townships creamery; Quebecs, about 21 c.; Western dairy, 16 c. Large cheese exports are again reported for last week, thirteen steamships having taken out 108,877 boxes, and the total shipments to date are now close on to the two million mark, with six weeks of open navigation yet. Of butter, the shipments last week were 16,442 packages, as against 6,708 packages for the same week a year ago.

Dry Goods.—Retail payments due the 4th, were very fairly met, several leading wholesale houses reporting the proportion of paper paid at from 70 to 75 per cent. Fur and clothing houses also report a generally satisfactory experience, and only three recent failures are reported in this Province. Travellers continue to do well, and values in all lines are very firmly held. Manufactur-

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ers of fingering yarns gave notice of an advance.

Groceries.—On Saturday last, the local refineries announced a cut of 10c. a cental on all lines of refined sugars, making the present factory figure for standard granulated \$4.10, with yellows ranging from \$3.40 upwards; bags 5c. a cental less. This reduction is due to an easier market for raws, and to a proportionate reduction by American refiners, but there have also been some good sized importations lately of Austrian and Belgian refined sugars, which may have had some influence. There is some moderate enquiry for molasses, of which stocks are light, only one direct cargo of 1,100 puncheons having come to this port this season, as against 10,000 to 12,000 puncheons last year. Importers quote 38c. in round lots, and jobbing prices range from 40 to 42c. No late important transactions are reported in teas, but values are very firm except in low grade Japans, which holders are offering more freely, but the quality is nothing extra. Mediterranean advices indicate that Valencia and Malaga raisins and currants are all steady at late advance. New Smyrna figs are arriving, and are considerably cheaper than last year. The "Bellona," the second direct fruit boat has completed her loading at

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