

on the certificate plan is likely to be allowed delegates, regardless of the number in attendance, while in regard to rates on railways in the United States, announcement will be made later.

The secretary of the Association, who has all arrangements under charge, is Mr. R. H. Campbell, Department of Interior, Ottawa, who will be glad to give any information desired.

PRICES OF COMMODITIES.

The London Economist's Index Number, showing the average movement in values of a number of the principal commodities, now stands at 2,219 as compared with 2,163 three months ago, and 2,136 at the end of last year. The wide distribution of the movement and the fact that it has occurred principally through an enhanced demand for raw materials, which in turn indicates brisk trade in the finished articles, would appear to indicate considerable improvement in general conditions in the British Isles.

The last three months have been a period of more than usual interest in the iron market. It will be remembered that the pig-iron warrant market was subjected to a "corner," which came to an end in May last, leaving the manipulators with a heavy stock of warrant iron to carry. This they seem to have been well able to do, since it has further increased during the three months, while at the same time the price has advanced, and is probably somewhere about the average level at which the accumulated stock was purchased. Prices of finished iron and steel have been very firm, while lead, tin and copper, though not quite so high as at one time during the quarter, are all still quite high priced.

Practically all textile commodities are high in value. Cotton has been steadier than for some time, though there have been rumors of further attempts to corner the market. Wool is in inadequate supply, but the sources of supply are, perhaps, too numerous to admit of much manipulation.

Food supplies have in some cases shown a lowering tendency, which, in the decrease of cost of living, has been of considerable advantage to the manufacturing interests. Wheat, for example, has made a notable decline since July. Meat has kept steady. Sugar has fallen heavily. Tea has advanced, but as the duty has recently been reduced in England, this should not hurt consumers materially. Petroleum has gone up.

WAGES IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

An interesting section of the third volume of the census of 1901, is that in which is made a comparison between the cost of manufacture in Canada and the United States. The conclusion is that in respect to wages, materials, and miscellaneous expenses, the Canadian manufacturer has the advantage, the average ratio for all industries being \$84.07 in Canada, and \$85.35 in the United States. That is to say, for every \$100 value of product, the cost for wages, materials, and miscellaneous expenses is \$84.07 in Canada, and \$85.35 in the United States. The average wage for all industries would appear to indicate an advantage

for the Canadian manufacturer, its cost to him being \$148.64 less per employee than the American manufacturer has to pay. Of course, as Mr. Archibald Blue, the Census Commissioner, admits, this question is deserving of more investigation, cheap labor not being always a pure advantage. It may be due to a lower standard of living in one country than the other, or to less efficiency of the labor, or the larger supply of that labor, or to a narrower margin of profit owing to more circumscribed production. However this may be, it is worthy of note that the ratio of wages to value of products is 2.58 per cent. less in the United States than it is in Canada. At the same time the ratio of capital to value of product is \$75.50 in the United States against \$92.90 in Canada, which shows the advantage of the large capital and the high state of organization possessed by United States industries.

The figures show that the total capital employed in 14,650 manufacturing industries in the Dominion is \$446,916,487, a little more than half of which is represented by working capital, and the balance by lands, buildings, machinery, and motive power, tools, implements, etc. The number of employees of all classes is, according to the census, 344,035. We were prepared to find it even larger; but this is a very respectable figure for the industrial army of the Dominion to reach.

EAT MORE FISH.

Vast stores of some of the finest fish in the world are to be found off both the eastern and the western coasts of Canada. Yet Canadians, taken as a whole, are far from being great fish eaters. Not that they do not like such a diet, which indeed, on the score of healthfulness, is not easily surpassed; but simply that they have not been educated to a taste for the toothsome morsels of the deep, which Providence has placed near their portals. It is true that large quantities of fresh fish from the lakes are consumed annually, and the idea has, perhaps, been formed that this is superior to that which has been taken out of salt-water, an opinion which the best qualified people consider a delusion. But whether fresh or salt, domestic or imported, the value of fish as an article of diet should be better known. In rheumatic cases and in nervous affections the instruction is common from up-to-date medical men to their patients: "Give up eating meat three times a day; eat fish, eat fruit, eat eggs." And the advice is sensible. Many a business man has been improved in health and spirits, whether he knew it or not, by acquiring the habit temporarily while at the sea-side, or holidaying in Muskoka or other lake districts, of eating fish more regularly than he does at home.

From the point of view of those who employ themselves in examining the main sources of economic food production, this neglect by Canadians, that is by those living in the central and western regions, of such an important addition to diet as fish, is lamented, and some of them have from time to time taken pains to point out the error.

The Dominion Government has also tried during the last year or two to see wherein improvements might be effected in the historic industry of catching fish. A few months ago, for example, a Scotch steamer was brought across the Atlantic to develop