

wood will be compelled to pay an export duty to the United States pulp and paper mills. These strokes of reciprocity will not be light ones, though doubt upon a large nation by a small one. It is much to be deplored that these two peoples cannot be permitted to trade with reasonable freedom with each other when the desire to do so is so great. The stumbling block in this case is the cheaper Canadian lumber made cheaper by an easier way of getting stumpage and lower wages of labor in the woods and mills of that country."

The twentieth annual meeting of the Wholesale Sash, Door and Blind Dealers of the Northwest States was held at Chicago on January 25. The discussion developed the fact that stocks in the hands of manufacturers are heavier than ever before in the history of the trade, and that prices are from 10 to 15 per cent lower than they have ever been. Although the question of advancing prices was broached, the consensus of opinion was that the present was not the time to take such action; inasmuch as the statistics show that for the last six months the number of building permits issued in the territory covered by the association, and in fact throughout the United States, has been materially less than for the same time the previous year. A committee was appointed to consider the price situation.

Hardware and Paint Trade.

THE BOOM IN TIN.

"The continued rise in the price of tin, which is now selling at nearly 8 cents a pound above the average quotations of January, 1897, appears to be in large part the result of a well-managed speculative movement," according to the Engineering Journal. "There have been some elements which would naturally cause an increase in price, and a moderate advance was to be expected. The consumption for the past year has been somewhat greater than the production, and at the same time there has been some rise in wages in the chief producing districts—the Malay Peninsula and the Dutch East Indies. This rise was partly due to the demand for miners and partly to the short rice crops in India, an important point, since the great majority of the miners are Chinese and rely chiefly on the rice for their support. The course of silver, on the other hand had very little effect on the price of tin last year, since its fluctuations were small. On this basis and on that of the small visible supply, which on January 1 was only 20,131 tons, parties in London and Amsterdam have taken hold of the market and have forced up the prices to a point unknown for years. Their profits have been large, and they may be able to keep up the quotations for some time yet. It must be remembered, however, that tin is derived chiefly from alluvial workings, and in the Straits—and to some extent in Sumatra also—the output can be rapidly increased from known deposits with only a small expenditure of capital. Twenty or 22 cent tin will be a great incentive to larger production, and new supplies will have a tendency to bring prices down again to a normal level. For a time, however, the speculators have matters their own way."

HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.

A rumor of a combine of iron pipe manufacturers in the United States has been set afloat, but it has not been confirmed.

The item in our Toronto telegram last week reporting barb wire 10 per cent higher, should have read 10 cents per 100 pounds higher.

The output of binder twine of the Kingston penitentiary is offered for sale by the Dominion government by tender. About 500 tons is the approximate amount.

Glass has advanced one point, or about 4 per cent, in Belgium, partly on account of the active demand and partly because of a threatened strike in the Belgian coal mines.

The announcement that the Standard Oil company now controls all the Canadian petroleum oil refining business, has raised another outcry for the abolition of duty on illuminating oils.

A Montreal report says: The Dominion Oilcloth company, which is one of the largest consumers of linseed oil in the country, has decided to erect a linseed crushing plant of its own.

Mixed Eggs.

Receipts of eggs in this market in the latter part of the winter and early spring always show more or less irregularity in quality. While Winnipeg retail dealers are paying fancy prices for fresh eggs marketed by their farmer customers, it is difficult to get any more than the price of held stock from them, for the fresh case eggs received from country points. Thus while city retailers have been paying their customers from 25 to 40 cents per dozen for fresh eggs, the outside which could be got for fresh receipts of case eggs has been about 22 cents. The reason for this is that the case eggs cannot be relied upon. Some cases are just as good as the eggs that are bringing fancy prices, but others are mixed, sometimes with very poor stock. It seems that some farmers impose upon country merchants by holding their eggs until the high winter price is reached, when they mix them in with fresh eggs and market them. Thus, while a higher price is secured for the held eggs, the general effect is to depreciate the price of fresh case eggs at this season of the year. If this mixing were not practiced fresh receipts of country eggs would bring a much better price than held city stocks. As it is, city retail dealers prefer to pay fancy prices for eggs they know to be fresh, than take chances with the case eggs, which are liable to be more or less mixed quality.

Boots and Shoes.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: All the large manufacturers are as busy as can possibly be on their spring orders, and are commencing to ship out the goods. One of our large houses has its travellers all home, and does not intend to put them on the road again until they have their fall samples, as it will not want any sorting orders until then. Remittances are rather quiet at the moment, and in fact there is not much paper falling due at the present time. There is every prospect of a good spring trade.

When a young man is alone with his best girl, he is generally supposed to be holding his own.

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