

tion that has arisen in that city for many a day. We refer to the issue now squarely forced upon the Hamilton city authorities by the Bricklayers' Union there as to whether unaffiliated or non union bricklayers shall be permitted to work in the construction of sewers and doing other similar work for the city, against the remonstrance of the Union. Our worthy contemporaries have from time to time in their local columns given whatever facts may have transpired regarding the matter, but these have always been recited in as few words as possible, and no editorial allusions have ever been made to it by either of them. They discuss Commercial Union and other topics ad nauseam, but these are of no more importance to the working people of Hamilton and to all the people of that city than that as to whether the city authorities shall discharge the man Buscombe on the demand of the Bricklayers' Union, merely because he is non-union man, or unaffiliated with or in arrears of dues to that union. The refusal of these newspapers to recognize the issue, or to discuss it in any way, is simply arrant cowardice. They hermetically seal their mouths and say nothing. Are they afraid to espouse the cause of either side? If they think that the demand to discharge Buscombe is wrong, in justice to that man they should defend him, and insist that the authorities show backbone enough to retain him at all hazards, if they think the Bricklayers' Union in the right, they should urge the authorities to discharge Buscombe, to the end that important city work be not retarded. They should get down off the fence.

NATURAL GAS IN CANADA.

It is to be hoped that extensive and intelligent explorations and borings for natural gas will be made in many parts of Canada where there are geological reasons known to exist for its existence, and where no such explorations have already been made. And it is equally to be hoped that in those locations where the gas has already been discovered, efforts will be made to secure it in such volume as will cause it to be utilized in such industrial establishments as may already exist contiguous to the wells, and be the means of inducing the starting of a great many other manufacturing concerns. There are strong indications of the existence of natural gas in both Ontario and Quebec, and the recent rich strikes at Courtright and Port Colborne encourage the belief that the article can be had in many places in large and paying quantities. At Courtright a rich vein was struck by a farmer who was boring for water. The boring tools were blown high into the air by the force of the escaping gas, and it was found impossible to again insert them into the well hole. Experts will put the well in condition so that the gas can be saved and utilized, and already Courtright is being mentioned as being, in the near future, the site of an important manufacturing town. Boring for gas at Port Colborne has been going on for some time, but a few days ago a rich vein was encountered, and the escaping gas rushes forth with a roar which is said to fairly shake neighboring buildings, and the supply is thought to be inexhaustible. It is being utilized for both domestic and manufacturing purposes, and Port Colborne will soon become an important manufacturing town. We understand that borings are soon to be commenced in or very near Toronto in

search of gas. Experts who have gone over the ground very carefully have found indications of gas, and if the search is as successful here as it has been elsewhere in Canada, Toronto is likely to become quite as important a manufacturing centre to Canada as Pittsburgh is to the United States.

CANADIAN TRADE.

THE exports of Canada to the United States during the fiscal year ending June 30, amounted to \$39,523,085, and the imports (for home consumption) to \$34,988,110, a total of \$74,511,795. While the exports are about up to the average of the last few years, there was a considerable falling off in the imports. In 1882 our exports to the United States amounted to \$47,940,711, in 1883 to \$41,688,723, and in 1885 to \$39,752,734, but with these exceptions the exports of the fiscal year recently closed, were greater than during any year since 1880. On the other hand, our imports from that country have been steadily decreasing. In 1880 these amounted to \$29,346,948, since which year they have never been less than \$40,000,000, except in 1881, when they were \$36,704,112. In 1883, they reached the maximum of \$56,032,333, since which time each year has witnessed a decrease on the preceding one. These figures teach that while the value of our exports to the United States is substantially the same from year to year, the Canadian products which they buy being things that they want, and must have, our purchases from them are steadily and rapidly decreasing, because of the fact that as our manufacturing industries grow and widen, they supply the people of Canada with Canadian-made merchandise, to the exclusion of those made in the United States. We take great pleasure in exhibiting this most flattering condition of Canadian industry.

AN idea of the amount of business being done in Toronto at this time is had from the statement of Grand Trunk officials to the effect that about 200 cars a day are unloaded, an average of 750 loaded cars standing in the yards waiting to be discharged of their contents. The Canadian Pacific road and other transportation companies are equally rushed with business.

A COUPLE of weeks ago an unaccountable explosion in St Louis wrecked a couple of houses, and several persons were killed. The press telegrams sent all over the country stated that the explosion was caused by gasoline, although there was no reason for attributing it to that cause, and some of the more thoughtless of our contemporaries were led to denounce the use of gasoline as being too dangerous to be allowed in common use. It is said that a lie will travel seven leagues while truth is pulling on its boots to pursue. In the first place sensational headlines were placed above the telegram announcing the event, and startling importance given to the deadly gasoline, but two days later a press telegram without headlines, and embraced in a half dozen lines of reading matter, stated that the chief of the St. Louis fire department, who had made official examination into the matter, had declared that the explosion had not been caused by gasoline at all, and attributed it to dynamite. It looks as though the telegraphic news gatherers are in league with the anti-gasoline fire insurance companies to "down" gasoline on every possible occasion.