

Fire Committee had acted as individuals and after he had gone and the meeting had been adjourned. He knew nothing about it,"—it had been bought in a Pickwickian sense only!

In reply to the knotty question whether this much discussed machine had been taken charge of it was replied that "it was bought and taken possession of as far as the committee was concerned, but the Council could interfere."

Ald. P. Kennedy said the Mayor had done a good thing in stopping payment, for the more the matter was looked into the worse it appeared. The Mayor is to see the City Attorney about the matter and ascertain whether the city could refuse the engine. It looks very much as if the worthy Council of our sister city resembled the western man who after exhaustive labor to subdue a certain animal called aloud to his hired man, "Josh! O, Josh! come out yer and help me to let go this critter." After such an exhibition of complicated responsibility and divided action the Montreal Council at all events cannot laugh at the municipal procedure of Toronto.

#### ADULTERATION OF DRUGS.

Since our article of last week on this subject was written, we have received Supplement No. 3 to the Report of the Canadian Department of Inland Revenue, being the report for the year 1888 on the adulteration of food. And we find therein a reference to the adulteration of drugs as well as to articles used for food. There were 45 samples tested, comprising alcohol, sweet spirits of nitre, quinine wine, tincture of opium, citrate of iron and quinine, tartaric acid, and citrate of iron and ammonia. Of these 26 were genuine, 5 adulterated, 14 "doubtful." The analysts were Mr. F. X. Valade, of Kingston District, and Dr. W. H. Ellis, of Toronto, and the samples analysed came from Napanee, Prescott, Ottawa, Toronto, Port Hope, and Bowmanville. We may add to these many samples of cream of tartar, perhaps one-third of which were adulterated with gypsum:—

Number Samples.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
7 Alcohol .....	5	2
7 Sweet spirits of nitre ..	2	5
8 Quinine wine .....	4	4
3 Tartaric acid .....	3	—
7 Tincture of opium ....	4	3
7 Citrate of iron and quinine .....	5	2
6 Citrate of iron and ammonia .....	4	2
45	27	18

Four of the samples of quinine wine were under the required standard: instead of containing, as they should, 1 grain of quinine per fluid ounce of wine, three of them contained only .17, .22, and .23 of a grain, or about one-fifth the supposed quantity of the drug. Of the six imperfect samples of spirits of nitre, one is described as "fair," two of them, "useless as such drug," the remainder, "below pharmacopoeia strength." With respect to three out of seven specimens of tincture of opium, the opinion of the officers is that "they are not to be relied on," as they contain only from two-thirds to three-fourths the quantity of the drug that is required. The alcohol was all right, and tartaric acid, so far as examined, found pure. But of seven samples of sweet spirits of nitre (sp. ether nit.) two are pronounced useless, one fair, three below pharmacopoeia strength, and two genuine. Much of

the citrates of iron and quinine and iron and ammonia was found below standard, being deficient in quinine; four samples out of thirteen were discovered to be thus imperfect.

#### OUR MINERAL WEALTH.

In a summary of the mineral production of Canada for the year 1888, prepared by Mr. Eugene Coste, of the Geological Survey, from the compilation of Mr. H. P. Brumell, the value of the year's products of this description is placed at \$16,500,000. The principal items are as stated in the following table:—

	Value, 1898.	Value, 1887.
Coal .....	\$5,259,832	\$5,208,429
Gold .....	1,058,610	1,111,877
Iron, rolled .....	1,442,974	1,937,800
" pig .....	226,443	366,192
" ore .....	139,393	146,197
Steel .....	470,819	331,199
Copper .....	667,543	342,345
Silver .....	368,396	322,602
Pyrites .....	232,988	171,194
Manganese ore .....	47,243	39,672
Phosphates .....	242,285	319,815
Salt .....	143,804	166,394
Mica .....	30,207	29,816
Lead (fine, in ore)....	27,472	9,216
Petroleum .....	716,067	463,641
Gypsum .....	179,393	157,277
Grindstones .....	42,159	35,368
Sulphuric acid .....	97,755	70,609
Mineral paints .....	11,750	4,900
Graphite .....	1,200	2,400
Asbestos .....	255,007	227,716
Antimony .....	6,894	18,960
Arsenic .....	1,200	1,200
Mineral water .....	11,456	.....
Charcoal .....	15,703	88,203
Coke .....	134,181	86,244
Fertilizers .....	21,600	25,943
Limestone for flux..	14,742	17,500
Brick .....	1,033,721	725,694
Building stone .....	561,197	450,934
Lime .....	339,541	389,369
Tiles .....	114,057	136,112
Granite .....	63,846	98,995
Marble and serpentine	3,110	7,845
Slate .....	90,689	89,000
Sand and gravel .....	.....	30,307
Flagstones .....	.....	10,811
Cement .....	35,593	81,909
Miscellaneous clay products .....	350,370	78,670
Glass .....	150,000	.....
Add short returns of eleven items .....	650,000	650,000
Total .....	\$15,259,190	\$14,452,355

#### TIN PLATE.

The attempts of a syndicate to purchase all, or the majority of, the tin-plate mills in South Wales, and so form a great tin-plate combination, have, says *Martineau & Smith's Journal*, fallen through altogether. It was stated by Messrs. Fowler & Co., the authors of the scheme, that the proposal was to form a company, with a capital of £4,000,000, to buy up tin-plate works. The price was to be increased by 2s. per box, and it was estimated that 15 per cent. could be earned upon the capital. The makers present (and the meeting was well attended), however, showed the scheme no favor, urging that such a combination would either break down, in consequence of the fresh competition it would excite, or else that the rise in prices would jeopardise the position of the trade with the United States, where there has been for a long time an agitation in favor of a very heavy duty. To these sound and pertinent objections the supporters of the syndicate could make no valid reply, and the following amendment was carried:—"That in view of the immense increase in the consumption of tin plates, consequent upon the system of supplying exporters at the lowest possible prices, this meeting declines to entertain any scheme which would interfere with

the absolute freedom under which the trade has hitherto been successfully conducted, and hopes that Messrs. Fowler & Co. will discourage further efforts in promoting the proposed syndicate." It is said that further efforts will be made to carry out the scheme; but the journal quoted is not inclined to think that they will prove successful. It is of opinion that a great advance in price would speedily lead to the construction of new mills, and also that such a policy would strengthen the hands of those in the United States who wish to almost exclude tin plates in order to create a new home industry. In view of the fact that three-fourths of the exports go to the United States, it is evident that such action might be disastrous. It is very satisfactory to see that the English makers hold such sound economic views, for, as recent experience shows, trusts in the end are as injurious to producers as to consumers.

#### WOODENWARE.

A prominent manufacturer of woodenware in the States tells the *North-Western Lumberman* that the production in that country of everything made of wood is overdone. He is of opinion that there are about twice as many tubs and pails turned out as are required for consumption. This keeps the market constantly glutted, and prices weak, in spite of the efforts of the association to keep them up. The association was formed in 1882, and now but three concerns of the considerable number of original organizers are in existence, the wrecks of defunct firms and companies having been scattered throughout the Western States, from Ohio to Wisconsin. This, says the *Lumberman*, is a sad commentary on the profitability of woodenware manufacture. The decline in the price of clothes pins is one of the striking features. A few years ago they were sold at wholesale for \$1.50 a box, containing five gross each, or 720 pins. At length competition reduced the price to 75 cents a box, and then all but three manufacturers went out of the trade. Now clothes pins are selling at wholesale for 40 cents a box, and there are men who think there is money in making such goods, and are going into their manufacture. A leading woodenware house in Chicago with a factory in Wisconsin is buying what clothes pins it wants for its trade, as they can be had that way cheaper than to manufacture them.

#### BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS RECEIVED.

**LUMBER TRADE DIRECTORY AND INSPECTION.**—This neat pocket volume of 120 pages contains a directory of dealers in pine lumber, hardwood, veneer, fancy woods, logs, etc., in New York, Boston, Worcester, Hartford, Philadelphia, Baltimore, etc., classified and alphabetically arranged. It also gives lumber inspection rules in vogue at New York, Boston, and Baltimore; and valuable hints as to consignment and shipment. The price is ten cents. It is published by the *N. Y. Lumber Trade Journal*, 72 Wall st., New York.

**MINERAL RESOURCES OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.**—We recommend anyone who desires to know more of the mineral capabilities of the western part of the Dominion to send to the mayor of Vancouver, Mr. D. Oppenheimer, for a copy of the pamphlet named above. Or better still, let him apply to Mr. A. W. Murdoch for a copy; it is to this gentleman we are indebted for the copy before us. Mr. Oppenheimer says, in his first chapter: "It is the universally