

GREAT CONSUMPTION OF IRON ORE.

Stocks on Lake Erie docks 700,000 tons less than they were a year ago. Consumption from Lake Erie ports during the year is close to nine millions.

Stocks of iron ore on all Lake Erie docks on May 1st, were 693,282 tons less than on the same date a year ago. This information, which has been obtained through direct reports to the *Marine Review* from all of the dock superintendents, will be welcomed by everybody connected with the ore and vessel interests of the lakes. On May 1st, the amount of ore on all Lake Erie docks, exclusive of cargoes received this season, was 1,949,698 gross tons, against 2,642,980 tons on May 1st, 1895, and 2,588,370 tons on May 1st, 1894. This aggregate is made up very largely of non-Bessemer ores, and it includes also, as in past years, a large amount of low grade ore (some of it practically worthless), that has been accumulating for a great number of years past.

It is also learned from this dock statement that 8,805,510 tons of ore was moved from Lake Erie ports to furnaces during the year ending May 1st, 1895, and that this amount is 2,509,295 tons more than was ever moved from docks to furnaces in any previous year.

At the close of navigation, on December 1st, 1895, the stocks on dock amounted to 4,415,712 tons. If we deduct from this 1,949,698 tons, the amount now on dock, we find that shipments to furnaces from Lake Erie ports during the past winter amounted to 2,466,014 tons, which added to 6,339,496 tons, the amount shipped to furnaces during the season of navigation in 1895, gives 8,805,510 tons as the entire consumption of ore from Lake Erie docks during the year ending May 1st, 1896. During the year ending May 1st, 1895, the consumption from Lake Erie docks was 6,296,215 tons, so that the difference in favor of the year just past is 2,509,295 tons. These figures do not, of course, represent the entire consumption of Lake Superior ores during the year ending May 1st, 1896. They cover only the ore brought to Lake Erie ports, and have no reference to the heavy consumption at South Chicago or to small quantities consumed at other points on Lake Michigan and at Detroit.

HARDWARE IN BIBLICAL TIMES.

The sage remark of Solomon that "there is nothing new under the sun," is as true to-day as in the far off ages

"—When the good king spake
Beneath the solemn Syrian cedars;"

and the pages of the Old Testament forcefully bring home this truth in reference to the products of the busy hardware district of Birmingham and the midlands.

The village blacksmith flourished in the time of the Prophet Isaiah, who (chap. 41) speaks of "Him that smote the anvil."

Armor is in frequent mention, and artillery is referred to in the twentieth chapter of the first book of Samuel. Axes are alluded to both in the Old and New Testaments, and in the first book of Kings axletrees, naves and fellows are mentioned.

Bars of iron and barbed iron are mentioned in the book of Job.

The manufacture of iron bedsteads was, half a century ago, regarded as a new industry in Birmingham. Mr. L. Brierley, who is a competent authority, states that in the year 1849 there were only eight manufacturers of iron bedsteads in Birmingham, whose united production only amounted to 400 bedsteads per week. To-day the industry has assumed enormous proportions. The first notice of an iron bedstead appears in the first book of Deuteronomy, and its inventor was Og, the king of Bashan.

Bells are mentioned in the book of Exodus, but they were made of gold. In Zechariah bells on horses are referred to as being in common use. Bellows were in use in the days of the prophet Jeremiah, and it may interest Wall-sall readers to know that bits, bridles, buckles, harness, whips and helms are referred to in the Psalms, Kings, Job, and other books of the Old Testament. Caldrons, pots, and spoons are mentioned in the second book of the Chronicles, and also in Jeremiah.

Chains of gold are mentioned in Genesis, and in Lamentations a "heavy chain"—presumably a cable chain—is referred to, and it is interesting to note that in the book of Kings chain work or wreaths of chain are named among the hardware productions of the time.

There are numerous references to candlesticks from the book of Exodus down to the book of the Revelations, and it will interest our Red-ditch readers to know that fishhooks were used in the days of the Prophet Amos. The Prophet Jeremiah makes allusion to hammers and nails, and hinges are referred to in the books of the Kings and Proverbs. Joel refers to spears and pruning hooks.

The chief trades of Willenhall are mentioned in Canticles ("the handles of the lock") and in Samuel, where door bolts are distinctly referred to, while in Judges there is an allusion to keys.

In Genesis there is mention of a knife, and in the first book of Kings of "knives and lances," while Jeremiah speaks of a penknife.

It is astonishing how modern ideas and associations are upset by a reference to biblical records. The steel pen is regarded as a modern Birmingham invention, but in Job we read of an "iron pen," and in Jeremiah of a "pen of iron." It is true that these ancient pens were *stylus pens*, but the idea of an iron pen was there.

Ploughshares are mentioned in Isaiah; pots and shovels in Exodus; fire pans (fry-pans?) and basins in Exodus; kettles in Samuel; latches (shoe-buckles?) in Isaiah; lamps in Genesis; lances in Jeremiah; iron, tin and lead in Ezekiel; mattocks in Samuel; iron nails in Chronicles; iron pans in Ezekiel; pins in Judges; razors in Numbers; sickles in Deuteronomy; tongs (blacksmith's) in Isaiah; snuffers in Exodus; spindles in Proverbs; spoons in Exodus; steel in Samuel; weights and measures in Proverbs, and anchors in the Acts.

The sentence "iron sharpeneth iron" indicates the existence in early biblical days of what we now call a "steel," and the words "a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass," suggest deposits of iron stone and copper ore in the "good land."—*Hardware Trade Journal, Birmingham.*

NORTHERN ONTARIO.

Some valuable recent testimony has come from an actual resident as to the once remote, but now tolerably familiar, region around Lake Temiscamingue. Mr. S. S. Ritchie, formerly a merchant in Lindsay, tells the *Watchman* of that town that he is located with his family on a large tract of land, comprising some 900 acres, near Liskark P.O., and thinks highly of the country, its climate, and present and future prospects. In addition to the tract on which he is located, Mr. Ritchie has secured several other large tracts, on which is valuable water power, and when the extension of the Northern Railway goes through that country—as it will in the near future—this water power will become valuable. The soil thereabout is strong, heavy clay, particularly adapted to the growth of No. 1 hard wheat, but as yet the settlers have not turned their attention much to the growth of grain, clearing and road-making taking up their time.

There is an abundance of timber—white birch, spruce, tamarac, poplar, etc.—just the wood that is required for pulp-making, a large mill for the manufacture of which will be established in the near future. Game of all kinds is plentiful, and the numerous lakes abound with sturgeon, pickerel, pike and white-fish. Flour and sawmills are needed, the nearest flour mill being Mattawa, about 100 miles distant. All the produce that the settler can raise is bought up at good prices by the lumbermen. Wheat is quoted at \$1.25; oats, 65c.; peas, 75c. to \$1; potatoes, \$1.50 a bag; flour, \$7 a barrel. There are about thirty townships surveyed and ready for settlement, and the land can be had for fifty cents an acre. All that is required down is \$5, and the balance on the easiest possible terms. There are homes for thousands in this fine section.

WHAT MANUFACTURERS WANT.

The *Manufacturers' Record*, of Baltimore, invited a large number of manufacturers, well distributed over the country, to state what they deemed essential to the re-establishment of prosperity in this country. Of the 178 replies published 105 name the gold standard, or honest money, or the cessation of the silver agitation. Most of these put this currency first, and many of them name no other. Eight manufacturers demand free silver coinage; they are not all in the far West by any means; some of these replies come from Detroit, Chicago and Canton, Ohio, while a Buffalo manufacturer

takes up more space than any other contributor to this symposium with an argument for fiat money. Only sixty-five of the whole number ask directly or indirectly for more tariff, and many of these ask only for a tariff that shall afford the Government sufficient revenue and obviate the necessity of borrowing. Almost half as many, thirty, ask only for a settled tariff, or no change of the present tariff.

On this the *New York Journal of Commerce* comments: "One manufacturer rather bitterly remarks that if Congress were made up of 'straightforward business men instead of politicians and glib-tongued lawyers,' all would go well. But suppose we installed these 178 manufacturers in Congress, what legislation should we get? Undoubtedly we should get a positive declaration against free silver coinage, but no other suggestion commands anything like a majority of the whole number. Seventy-nine do not mention the tariff at all, 65 want more protection or more revenue—they eventually would not easily agree on the details of a measure—and 34 want no change, or else they want free trade. Among other propositions are some whose impracticability and worthlessness could hardly be surpassed by 'politicians and glib-tongued lawyers.'"

THE LAKE ST. JOHN COUNTRY.

Remote as most of us are accustomed to consider the Lake St. John settlements, in the Province of Quebec, they are not so far north as Gaspe, and are in much the same range of territory as the Lake Temiscamingue settlement. The Rev. Frere Norbert, of the Trappist settlement at Lake St. John, visited Quebec the other day and gave the *Chronicle* most encouraging news of the progress of the new settlement, there being now one hundred families established there, and a great many more going in daily. The steamer "Colon" is now making two trips per week between Roberval and the monastery, but will be obliged to increase the number to four or five, so as to accommodate the increasing traffic. The monks have about one hundred head of live stock on their farm, and have a creamery in operation which is turning out a very fine quality of butter, with which they intend to supply the Quebec market regularly.

Lectures have been given at different points in Quebec province by Mr. René Dupont, the active colonization and repatriation agent of the Lake St. John Railway, illustrated by lime-light views of agricultural scenes in the Lake St. John district. And that gentleman has just left for the New England States, where he will continue to work actively for the repatriation of French Canadians, sending them to Lake St. John to settle. "The liberal policy of the railway company in carrying new settlers and their effects free of charge is producing wonderful results. During the last nine months 887 *bona fide* new settlers were sent to Lake St. John in this way, and no less than 122 parishes in different parts of the province, from Gaspe to Pontiac, took advantage of the liberal offer of the railway, and sent two delegates each to examine and report upon the country."

A number of Lake St. John and Great Northern cars were last week on the Louise dock at Quebec loaded with lumber. Several ocean steamers are daily expected to load deals in this dock. Their cargoes are to come from mills on the Lake St. John, Lower Laurentian and Great Northern roads. Here, again, is testimony to the opening up of this region.

—The receipts of wheat at Fort William last week were very large, amounting to 493,676 bushels, says the *Winnipeg Free Press* of the 19th inst. Over 1,200,000 bushels were carried out of the elevators last week. The amount in store there at present is 2,422,760 bushels.

—Is McKinley, as a Presidential candidate, going to plunge the United States (if elected) into the chaos of silver currency? Nobody seems to know. The *Dry Goods Economist* said in its issue of April 18th: "Judging by their platform, the Ohio Republicans are neither gold bugs nor silver bugs. They can only be classed as straddle bugs." And last week Speaker Reed has been widely quoted as saying: "McKinley is not a gold bug; McKinley is not a silver bug; McKinley is a straddle bug." Our readers will remember what Hosea Bigelow said of the dangerous politician who was on the fence.