Coal Supply of the World.

Coal was first discovered in the United States, in Rhode Island, in 1768—that is, in one of the States into which practically all the coal used is imported. Coal mining was begun at Pittsburg before it was tried in Rhode Island. *Fifty years ago the three coal* producing States of the country were Pennsylvania, Virginia and Rhode Island. There is a very close relation, political economist have not failed to notice, between coal and manufactures, and in the expansion of the manufacturing interests of civilized countries during the present century the rate of increase in supply of coal, taking, of course, those manufactures into which steam power enters.

At the head of all the coal-producing countries of the world is Great Britain, with a yearly average of about 180,000,000 tons. At the head of the countries using steam power for purposes other than railway traction is Great Britain, also. Second of the coal producing countries are the United States, with a yearly average of 140,000,000 tons, and the United States are also second in respect of steam power exclusive of railroads. Third in production of coal, 100,000,000 tons a year, and also third in steam power for manufactures is Germany, and France is fourth. Russia comes fifth, the increase of the coal production of the Russian empire having been very marked during the last few years. It doubled from 1875 to 1885, and nearly doubled from 1885 to 1895. Among political economists it is pretty generally admitted that the dearth of coal in Italy is one of the chief barriers to a material development of manufactures which would otherwise be sufficient to put that country in a position of greater prominence in the commercial world. There is the same trouble to be found in Spain, though Spain furnishes some of the coal required for domestic use. Some 25,000,000 tons of coal mined in England are annually exported to European countries which either have no coal supply or mine an amount inadequate to their needs. France, Italy and Spain receive a very large share of *this imported coal. Some, too, goes to Egypt,* and some to Canada. A table which recently appeared in England makes this subdivision of 150,000,000 tons annually mined: Used in manufactures, 55,000,000 tons a year; for domestic purposes, cooking and heating, 40,000,000 tons; for railway locomotives and for steamships, 20,000,000 tons; for gas or water works (particularly gas works), 20,000,000 tons, and for mining, 15,000,000 tons.

The general extension and utilization of the electric current has diminished the demand for coal in many parts of the United States, and the utilization of natural gas, in the natural gas belt, has had a like effect. One paradox connected with the production and the use of coal in the United States has come up for discussion again at the Atlanta Exposition, where many of the Southern speakers have been pointing out as peculiar the fact that hundred of thousands of tons are transported from Southern ports to New England ports for use in Yankee factories, and that the products of such factories are in turn sold to the States and districts from which comes not only the coal, but also the cotton.—Boston Journal of Commerce.

United States Winter Wheat Crops.

The snow covering for wheat has been light or none at all in different parts all winter. It is not possible to know the full effect of such open weather until the time for the plant to begin to grow in the spring. Past experience teaches that wheat is winter killed when there is an absence of snow during the winter period. At one time, for some ten days, there was snow in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, with the ground uncovered before and after it. Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas have been bare all winter, excepting the late few days, when they were covered with a light snow, in many parts being only a trace. As such a winter never passed without great injury to the wheat plant, it is only to be expected that there is great harm now.

The condition of winter wheat in this country is therefore most assuredly in an unsatisfactory state. The fixing of per cent. of condition like say 79.5, etc., as compared with a full crop, is too fine for practice although correct in theory. It is practical facts that people have to face and not theories. The main trouble now is the uncertainty of the effect of all this winter of too little snow or none. Considerable of the time even Wisconsin and Michigan were bare, and Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky have been without any, with very little in Nebraska. The winter wheat crop cannot be a big crop, with indications of a light one.—Minneapolis Market Record.

Montreal Grocery Market.

The sugar market is somewhat excited, and the strong feeling that has prevailed for the past two or three weeks still continues. In fact, it is more pronounced than ever, still higher prices being looked for in the near future. Advices from abroad on the raw article noted a further advance. There has been no further change here in values for the refined article, and the impression is that there won't be until New York responds to the the advance in raws. The demand here for refined from refiners has been limited, and business has been quiet, owing to the fact that large buyers are pretty well supplied for the present, but as soon as they work off present stocks, an active trade is looked for. Granulated has sold at 4⅝c in 250 barrel lots, and over; 4 11-16c in 100 barrel lots, and 4⅞c in smaller quantities. Yellows range from 3⅝c to 4¼c, as to quality, at the factory.

The stock of syrups in refiners' hands has been reduced of late, and the offerings are small. The market is firm, but values are unchanged at 1⅞ to 2⅜c per lb, as to quality, at the factory.

The market for molasses has been quiet, The demand being only for small lots. The feeling, however, is very firm, in sympathy with the strong advices from primary markets, and values are fully maintained. Barbadoes are selling at 37c; Porto Rico, at 35c, and N. O. at 25 to 35c.

The demand for rice continues fair, and the market is moderately active, with no change in prices to note. The following quotations are what millers sell at:—Japan standard, $1.25 to $4.40; crystal Japan, $4.75 to $5; standard B, $3.45; English style, $3.30; Patna, $4.25 to $5; and Carolina at $6.50 to $7.50.

In spices there has been no important change. The demand is up to the average for the season, and the market is fairly active. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only:—Penang black pepper, 6 to 7½c; white pepper, 10 to 12½c; cloves, 7½ to 9c; cassia, 8½ to 9½c; nutmegs, 60 to 90c; and Jamaica Ginger, 15½ to 18½c.

There has been no change in coffee, the market having ruled quiet, and business principally of a jobbing character. We quote: Maracaibo, 19 to 20c; Rio, 18 to 18½c; Java, 24 to 27c; Jamaica, 17½ to 18½c, and Mocha, 27½ to 30c.—Gazette, Feb. 1.

Dressed Beef.

The dressed meat market is in a very depressed state at present, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin. Dealers state that they have never known prices to be so low in the history of dressed beef. Cattle sold here during the latst three markets at lower prices than was ever known for the quality at this or any other season of the year. Nice heifers, averaging 1150 lbs., sold at $2.25 to $2.30 per hundred pounds. This is about 1½c lower than was paid a year ago, when prices were considered ridiculously low. The lamb market is also glutted, best lambs, which were selling at 7c two weeks ago, are now down to 6c. An experiment has been tried by a western shipper, by shipping a carload of dressed beef to this market by a refrigerator car; but it is stated that he will be sadly disappointed when he recives his account sales, which will be very small, owing to the depressed state of the market, and dealers say the experiment has proved a failure in a financial way. Best dressed beef carcass are selling at 5c, which brought 6c a year ago.