

perhaps more than usually so even considering the season. Loaded cartridges have been somewhat slow in delivery, but guns and other ammunition have been going forward in large quantities. Fishing appliances are also in good request. Wire nails have gone up in price across the American line, but so far the rise has not been followed here. A rather extra volume of trade is being carried on in cutlery. There is some scarcity, it is said, in certain quarters, of cement, but the movement of this article was very heavy during the earlier part of the season. Its use in building operations is spreading fast.

The position of the heavy metals is quite strong, and high values generally prevail. Bar iron has already advanced considerably, while pig-iron, from what comes to hand in the way of advices from the factories, is ordered ahead for several weeks, and prices may become higher. Galvanized iron and black sheets are also quoted higher. There is a strong demand for both lead and copper. The position of the iron market in the United States is indicated by the following from *The Iron Age*:—

While the largest producers of iron and steel have been preparing for some time for the heavy consumption, the buying movement has come somewhat earlier than they expected, and has been of surprising volume. As an indication of what has been happening we may note that the September sales of the United States Steel Corporation constituted a record, and have been double its capacity. The most interesting development of the past week has been the rush to buy furnace coke for 1906. A number of the large steel companies have closed very important contracts, and the pig iron makers generally have hastened to cover. The price has advanced to \$2.55 to \$2.65 at ovens for strictly Connellsville coke, which is about \$1 above the price at which coke was sold in the spring. This means a very serious addition to the cost of production of pig iron, and accounts for the attitude which makers are assuming. They are putting up prices, and are chary of taking business beyond the first quarter of 1906. Then, too, the feeling is growing that speculative buying on the part of consumers, of which there are some indications, should be discouraged.

A report from Manchester, England, says:—

About a month ago we were able to report a brisk demand for pig iron and the trade in general improving. Since then values have advanced steadily to the total extent of 3s. 6d., 2s. 6d., and 6s. 9d. per ton in Scotch iron, Cleveland iron, and hematite respectively. There is a general impression of good trade prospects, and large orders have recently been placed not only for near delivery, but also for delivery over the first half of next year. The demand continues strong, and prices tending further upwards.

THE FORESTRY CONVENTION.

We have referred in a previous number to the call which had been issued by Sir Wilfrid Laurier for every person interested in the highly important question of Canadian forestry to meet in convention in Ottawa in January next. The following is the text of the invitation, a copy of which, with Sir Wilfrid's signature attached, we have received with a good deal of pleasure:

Office of the Prime Minister of Canada.

Ottawa, 21st August, 1905.

To the Public of the Dominion of Canada:

Canada possesses one of the largest areas of virgin forest of any country in the world, and is ranked by Euro-

pean experts first, or among the first, of the important sources of the world's timber supply for the future.

The preservation of the streams in perennial and constant flow, which is largely controlled by the forests on the watersheds, will have an important influence on the industrial and agricultural development of the Dominion. The expansion of our electrical and mechanical industries will be regulated to a great extent by water, which forms the greatest source of power in all countries; and some of our Western districts are dependent on irrigation to ensure the success of agricultural operations.

In all the older Provinces the clearing of the soil has been carried to such an extent that the ill effects on the water supply and on agriculture are clearly marked, while on the Western prairies the need of sheltering trees for houses and fields is seriously felt by the settlers.

The early construction of the Transcontinental Railway, and of other railways, through our northern forested districts, and the consequent opening of those districts to general traffic, will increase the danger from fire which has already been a most active agent of destruction.

These conditions are not new; they have from time to time received public attention, and during the session just closed Parliament authorized the summoning of a convention for the more thorough discussion of the same.

I therefore hereby call a public convention to meet in the city of Ottawa on the 10th, 11th and 12th of January, 1906, under the auspices of the Canadian Forestry Association, and to this convention are specially invited: Members of the Senate and House of Commons; Lieutenant-Governors of the Provinces; members of Legislative Councils and Legislative Assemblies of the Provinces; Dominion and Provincial forest officials; members of the Canadian Forestry Association; representatives of lumbermen's associations; representatives of boards of trade; representatives of universities; representatives of agricultural colleges; representatives of farmers' institutes; representatives of railway companies; representatives of the Canadian Mining Institute; representatives of the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers; representatives of associations of land surveyors; representatives of fish and game associations, and all others who take an interest in forestry.

An invitation is also extended to the Bureau of Forestry of the United States, the American Forestry Association and the state forestry bureaus and associations to send representatives to this convention.

(Signed), WILFRID LAURIER.

The convention, the date of which is 10th, 11th, and 12th January, 1906, will be composed of: Lieutenant Governors of the Provinces; members of the Senate and the House of Commons; members of the Legislative Councils and Legislative Assemblies of the Provinces; Dominion and Provincial Forest officials; members of the Canadian Forestry Association; representatives of lumbermen's associations, of boards of trade, railway companies, universities, agricultural colleges, farmers' institutes, the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers, the Canadian Mining Institute, associations of land surveyors, fish and game associations, the Bureau of Forestry of the United States, the American Forestry Association, state forestry bureaus and associations, and all others who are interested in forestry.

The subjects to be considered will be discussed under the following divisions: The Nation and the Forest; Forestry in relation to Agriculture and Irrigation; the Forest and the Lumber and Pulp Industries; the Relation of our Forests to our other Industries; Railways; Water Powers; Mining; Building Trades; Wood Working Manufactures; Scientific Forestry and Forestry Education.

We note that by the kindness of the Canadian railway companies a single fare rate over their roads

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