

up in the discussion of an arrangement whereby the present very serious cutting in prices will be prevented and at the same time the quality of the goods packed improved. In order to avoid disputes it was decided that in the future the standard tins should be the same size as those in use in the States, and they should be designated as 1's, 2's, 2½'s, 3's, 6's and 8's, the latter taking the place of gallons; also that there should be 48 1's to a case; 24 2's, 2½'s and 3's, and 12 6's and 8's.

THE Imperial Oil Company of Petrolea, Ont., who operate with a capital stock of \$500,000, have a very extensive and complete plant that includes over forty-six acres of land at Petrolea and over ten acres at London, Ont. They have their own wells, their own steam cooperage, where they make their own barrels, and are owners of machinery for the manufacture of patent tin cans; thus placing this company in position to place the products they manufacture into barrels or patent tin cans made by themselves, insuring uniformity of the oils, and also of what is of great importance, good, sound, uniform and regular packages of every kind.

THE Customs Department made the following tariff decisions during the months of October and November:—Cotton seed bran, 20 p.c.; coconut oil cake, 20 p.c.; galvanized wrought iron tubing over 2 inches diameter, 30 p.c.; letter copying books, 35 p.c.; Parian busts or statuettes, 30 p.c.; paper boxes embellished with chromos, etc., 6 c. lb. and 20 p.c.; pencil cases of all kinds, including gold, silver or plated, 25 p.c.; vases, glass, plain or fancy, 20 p.c.; vases, china and porcelain, 30 p.c.; vases, earthenware, 35 p.c.; wool noils, dyed, 20 p.c. The items "vases" are not intended to include articles that should be classed as "table ware."

By agreement between the Government of India and Mr. John D. Noble, acting for the Petrolea Oil Company, a tract of 50,000 acres of land in the Punjab was leased to him for the purpose of boring for petroleum in that country. A consignment of machinery and drilling tools has been shipped via New York and London, for India. Mr. David Boyle, an experienced mechanic and driller, goes out in charge of the tools, and will be employed there by the company, under the superintendence of Mr. W. J. Townsend, of Rawal Pindi. Mr. R. E. Slack also goes to Kurrachee, India, to assist in the petroleum operations there. He has been engaged by Mr. Alva Townsend for the Assam Railway and Trading Company of India for two years.—Petrolea, Ont., *Advertiser*.

THE Montreal agents of Messrs. Wm. Bell & Co., piano manufacturers, Guelph, Ont., are in receipt of a letter from Prof. J. B. Labelle, organist of Notre Dame church, Montreal, in which he says:—"After having played on the piano of Messrs. W. Bell & Co., of Guelph, Ont., it is impossible not to bear testimony to the qualities which have acquired for them the good reputation which they already enjoy. The pianos of their manufacture are exceedingly remarkable for their qualities of tone. The bass is powerful without harshness, and the upper notes sweet, clear and mellow. I consider the Bell pianos the best made in Canada, and I act upon my principle and give you an order to furnish one for my own use. Canada is to be congratulated in having produced the Bell piano."

MESSRS. ROBIN & SADLER, leather belting manufacturers, of Toronto and Montreal, inform us that they have just completed putting in all the belting required in the new mill of Messrs. J. B. Smith & Sons, on Strachan avenue, Toronto. The main driving belt is eighty feet long, twenty inches wide, double thickness, and was put on by them endless at the mill. It contains no rivets, sewing, or any other fasteners except cement, to keep it together. They claim that belts made by this process are much smoother running and will also transmit more power, owing to a closer contact with the pulley surface. This firm have recently put on a large number of very large driving belts in different parts of the country, which give the very best of satisfaction. They have just completed a twenty-inch double belt for the Crossen Car Works at Cobourg, Ont., similar to the one above described.

THE Canadian Pacific Railway Company intend, in the future, to manufacture their own cars, that is, as many as possible. Hitherto they have had to purchase the greater proportion of their cars from builders in Ontario and the United States. Some very fine shops are now in course of erection at Hochelaga, near Montreal, specially designed for building cars. The sheds are built in circular shape, the outside circumference measuring no less than 1,380 feet. At present only one-half of this circle is completed, and the building erected contains three divisions, separated by fire-proof walls, each division consisting of three tracks, or sections. Good light is obtained by means of a skylight measuring sixteen feet by twenty feet, and four large windows. In the centre of the yard is a turn-table, measuring sixty-five feet in diameter, with which each section communicates by a track.

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