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BARREL STAVES IN ENGLAND.

Mr. P. B. MacNamara, Canada's commercial agent in Manchester, has been looking into the subject of the demand of beer barrel staves and heads knocked down to be hooped in England. He finds that 35,370,000 barrels of beer were passed for duty through the Inland Revenue Department for the fiscal year ending 31st March last. That a very large market for beer barrels and casks exists in this country goes without saying, and he considers it worth the attention of the Canadian maker to investigate. He says that Memel oak is the kind most used here, but asks why should it be preferred to Canadian oak. Some brewers admitted ignorance of the quality of Canadian oak, and would like samples submitted. Memel oak is obtained from the Baltic port of that name, and is said to be of a harder and more durable nature than other timber, and is not so liable to become 'stinkers.' Messrs. Guinness & Sons, of Dublin, it is stated, use a considerable quantity of Canadian oak and it seems quite suitable to their trade, and why cannot it become more generally used by other large brewers in the United Kingdom. Baltic oak commands a higher price than Canadian. A great many coopers use Canadian, yet a larger market can be created here for it if properly placed, than it now possesses.

MILLERS MEET.

The Dominion Millers' Association held their annual convention in Toronto a few days ago, and seventy-five members were present, representing nearly all parts of Ontario. Their reports were uniformly depressing, and showed that in both quality and quantity the provincial crop was the poorest in years. Two counties, Essex and Kent, reported total failure, while of the others, the majority reported about a one-third crop. A liberal estimate of the yield in Ontario this year would place it at between seven and eight million bushels, compared with 21,000,000 last year. However, probably this will be offset in some measure by the high prices. Fall wheat was described by Mr. C. B. Watts, the secretary of the Association, as the poorest in quality and smallest in quantity the province had ever experienced, while spring wheat was much damaged by rust. It is interesting to note that the Association have thought it worth while to communicate with the Chamberlain Tariff Commission, and to urge the putting of flour on the same basis as grain in regard to preferential trade. They pointed out that British millers could not hope to supply the entire needs of the country, and that they were sufficiently protected from colonial competition by freight rates. The report of the Committee on Transportation protested against the action of the G.T.R. and C.P.R. in charging

Ontario grain men a higher freight rate on grain to the seaboard than they charged Michigan dealers. The railway companies' discrimination in favor of the West in the matter of freight rates on grain shipments to the Maritime Provinces was also adversely commented upon. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, H. Shaw, Toronto; 1st vice-president, George Goldie, Ayr; 2nd vice-president, S. W. Vogan, Walkerton; treasurer, William Galbraith, Toronto; secretary, C. B. Watts, Toronto. Executive Committee, W. G. Bailey, Hamilton; H. Burritt, Port Hope; J. D. Flavelle, Lindsay; J. I. A. Hunt, London; M. McLaughlin, Toronto; H. L. Rice, St. Mary's.

CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual convention of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will be held in Montreal, on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 20th, 21st, and 22nd September, 1904. The headquarters of the Association will be the Windsor Hotel, but it is probable that the sleeping quarters of the members will be at various additional hotels, e.g., the Queen's, the Place Viger, the St. Lawrence Hall, and La Corona. A large gathering of members is expected, and the Montreal members of the body are sparing no pains to make pleasant the stay of those from a distance. It is significant that both the big telegraph companies have granted to all duly registered delegates at the Convention, the privilege of sending social messages over their telegraph lines, from Montreal to any point in Canada, free of charge, during the three days of the Convention. Still more noteworthy, because unusual, is it that the Bell Telephone Company has granted to all registered delegates the free use of its local telephone system from the Windsor Hotel to any part of the city.

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The annual general meeting of shareholders of Frothingham & Workman, Limited, was held in Montreal on the 6th inst. A satisfactory report was laid before the meeting. The following directors were elected: Edward Archibald, president; Chas. D. Monk, W. G. Lemesurier, E. C. Eaton, G. C. Davis. Mr. Eaton is managing-director, and Mr. Harold G. Eadie, secretary-treasurer.

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