

THE INSPECTION OF FOOD.

Mr. Anthony McGill, Analyst to the Dominion Government, gave a lecture before the Ontario Grocers' Convention in Toronto a few days ago in which he made some strong pleas for the national control of food supplies.

If it were necessary to justify food inspection as a national concern, the following, among other considerations, might be given: First, the great importance of the subject; the national health and well-being are directly menaced by any lowering in the quality of its food material. Second, the necessarily high cost of such inspection, because expert skill must be employed, if the work is to possess any value. Third, the benefits of inspection should be equally available to the poor and the rich. It is equally to the interest of the whole commonwealth that the working classes should be properly nourished. It is not only the rich man who should be safeguarded in the character of the food stuffs offered for sale. Fourth, a continuous inspection must be provided in order that the quality of our foods may be known. We cannot afford to wait until a lowering of national vitality indicates something wrong. We need to prevent widespread harm, not to discover and account for it after the fact.

The Canadian Act affecting adulteration defines the latter as follows:

1. If any substance has been mixed with an article so as to reduce or lower or injuriously affect its quality or strength;
2. If any inferior or cheaper substance has been substituted, wholly or in part, for the article;
3. If any valuable consistent of the article has been wholly or in part abstracted;
4. If it is an imitation of, or is sold under the name of another article;
5. If it consists wholly or in part of a diseased or decomposed or putrid or rotten animal or vegetable substance, whether manufactured or not, or in the case of milk or butter, if it is the produce of a diseased animal, or of an animal fed upon unwholesome food;
6. If it contains any added poisonous ingredient which may render such an

[FIRE]
German American
Insurance Company
New York

CAPITAL
\$1,500,000
NET SURPLUS
5,841,907
ASSETS
12,980,705

AGENCIES THROUGHOUT CANADA.

article injurious to the health of a person consuming it;

7. If its strength or purity falls below the standard, or its constituents are present in quantity not within the limits of variability, fixed by the Governor-in-Council, as hereinafter provided;

8. If it is so colored or coated or polished or powdered that damage is concealed, or if it is made to appear better or of greater value than it really is.

The chief ground of complaint rests in the non-acknowledgement of the presence of a foreign substance. The importance which this assumes depends greatly upon the point of view. To the consumer it means that he is ignorant of what he eats. This is always a perfectly tenable ground for complaint. It frequently amounts to a very serious matter, indeed, as in cases where personal idiosyncrasy or invalidism prohibits the use of certain classes of food. To the honest manufacturer it is a very heavy grievance, since it means unfair competition.

To the producer it is also a ground for complaining. What of the fruit grower who finds apple, turnip or other pulp used as a basis for jams, sold as strawberry, raspberry, plum, etc., and dyed with coal tar colors to imitate the genuine fruit? Just in the same way has the dairy farmer a right to complain of unacknowledged competition by the sale of oleomargarine or renovated butter for the genuine article; the farmer who raises pigs has a bona fide grievance when cotton seed products are substituted for lard, and so on.

scant stocks in possession of the users. This is shown by the great generality of the purchases, the buying movement affecting all classes of consumers.

The opinion seems to be held by both buyers and sellers that pig iron prices are high enough. The buyers have entertained hopes that quotations might be lower. A sort of support to that view is given by the fact that quotations for the last half of the year have in some instances been lower than for immediate delivery.

What will happen in regard to prices for the last half of the year will depend largely upon the volume of enquiry to develop and the rate at which iron continues to be specified. Pig iron has certainly withstood remarkably well the neglect of buyers during the past several months, and any marked expansion in demand would be tonic in its effects. There are indications that the order books of some of the Eastern furnaces are in much better shape than they were a few weeks ago. In regard to prices for Southern products, the \$14 quotation seems to have been arrived at by agreement, and for that reason possesses more or less artificiality, from a supply and demand standpoint. But some of the smaller furnace interests, not counselling in the deliberations concerning values, have been advancing their figures this week from \$13.75 to \$14. All told, the pig iron market looks stronger, though with main dependence upon the coming buying.—Iron and Machinery World.

For the year 1905 the exports of coal and coke from the United States reached a total of 9,850,000 tons, valued at over \$31,000,000. The exports of anthracite coal were 2,239,983 tons, valued at \$11,104,654; of bituminous coal, 6,959,265 tons, valued at \$17,867,964; of coke, 599,054 tons, valued at \$2,243,010. Almost all the exports of anthracite coal were to Canada, and over two-thirds of those of bituminous coal. The exports have practically doubled since 1895. The distribution of coke exports is not given in the Government statistics, but such shipments are largely to Mexico. Great Britain exports about five times as much coal, and Germany about twice as much as the United States.

DEBENTURES

FOR SALE.

Sealed tenders marked "Tender for Debentures" will be received by the undersigned up to 5 o'clock p. m. on Friday May 18th next, for the purchase of \$132,410.26 of City of London four per cent. Local Improvement Debentures.

Forms of tender giving full particulars of the debentures can be secured on application to City Treasurer.

The highest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

JOHN POPE,
City Treasurer.

JOHN FORRISTAL,
Chairman Finance Committee.

THE IRON AND STEEL MARKETS.

Whether the buying of pig iron this past week simmers down into early dullness, or whether it develops into a vigorous and tenacious trading, there is certainty that the improvement in enquiry extends practically to the entire country. The early subsidence of the demand or its growth into proportions of great magnitude depends mainly upon the decision to be made by the consumers as to whether this is the proper time to buy for the requirements of the last half of the year. The present activity in pig iron has been forced by the