

United States Production of Pig Iron.

The monthly statements published in The Iron Age of the producing capacity of the active blast furnaces in the United States keep the iron trade well informed at the rate at which pig iron is being turned out. Nevertheless, it is a great satisfaction to have at the expiration of each half year an official statement of the exact production during that time. The statistics of this production have just been issued for the six months ended June 30 by James M. Swank, general manager of the American Iron and Steel Association. They show that the United States turned out in that period the huge quantity of 7,642,569 gross tons of all kinds of pig iron, including speigeleisen, which is at the rate of considerably over 15,000,000 tons for the year. As the production in the last half of 1890 was 7,331,536 tons, the production for the 12 months ended June 30, was 14,974,105 tons, or only 25,895 tons short of 15,000,000 tons. This is a very conclusive answer to those who have been figuring that the consumptive requirements of the country had grown to about the 15,000,000-ton mark and wondered how they were to be met. The production for the last half year would undoubtedly have been still greater but for the reaction in the iron trade that set in during April. If the demand for iron had continued more furnaces would have gone in blast in the spring months, fewer would have been blown out and the completion of new furnaces under way would have been hastened. It appears now that the figures for the past 12 months will represent high water mark in our pig iron production for some time, but we will have the capacity to considerably exceed it whenever the demand calls for a larger supply.

The production of Bessemer pig iron was 4,461,391 tons in the first half of this year, against 4,413,871 tons in the last half of 1890, and 3,788,907 tons in the first half of that year. A similar comparison of the production of basic pig iron shows 581,868 tons, 502,644 tons and 482,389 tons. The production of speigeleisen and ferromanganese in the first half of 1890 was 148,102 tons, against 104,496 tons in the first half of 1890 and 115,272 tons in the second half.

Figures are presented for stocks of pig iron on hand at the blast furnaces. These stocks include all iron unsold in the hands of the manufacturers of their agents and in the yards of the American Pig Iron Storage Warehouse Company, but not any iron sold and not removed from the furnace yard or manufactured by steel works or iron rolling mills for their own use. On this basis the stocks reported on June 30 total 338,053 gross tons, or eight days' production, against 63,429 tons December 31, 1890, and 81,220 tons June 30, 1890.—The Iron Age

In a subsequent issue The Iron Age has the following to say with regard to the iron and metal trades: The only effective remedies to restore the iron industry to a normal and sound condition are now being automatically applied, and will do more to inspire confidence than all palliatives. These are an extremely sharp reduction in the production of pig iron, and quite an active export movement, with the prospect that the latter will expand considerably, since the margin now is very satisfactory.

As bearing on the first point, our reports from blast furnace owners show that furnaces have been blown out wholesale during July, making a staggering reduction in the active producing capacity on August 1. At that date 240 furnaces of all kinds were in blast with a weekly capacity of 244,426 tons, against 284 furnaces on July 1, with a weekly capacity of 283,413 tons. This is a restriction of production in earnest, and it should soon put the pig iron market in a better shape, particularly when it is considered that the movement has not yet exhausted itself. In fact, in an informal manner the furnace owners of the central west have decided to bank a number of stacks on September 1, which are now running.

The furnaces which have been blown out in the past month are scattered all over the country, as follows: New York, Niagara, 1 stack; Lehigh Valley, Pa., Allentown Iron Works, 1; Allentown Rolling Mill, 2; Thomas Iron Company, 2; Upper Susquehanna Valley, Pa., Lackawanna, 2. North Branch, 1. Lower Susquehanna Valley, Pa., Chickies, 2. Auroara, 1, Vesta, 1, Lebanon Valley, Pa.

Rird Coleman, 2, Colebrook, 2, North Carr, 1; Western Pennsylvania, Juniata, 1; Kemble, 1; Shenango Valley, Pa., Claire, 1; Ella, 1; Pittsburg, Pa., Edgar Thomson, 1; Eliza, 1; Maryland, Mulkrirk, 1; Virginia, Ivanhoe, 1; Covington, 1; Northern Ohio, Newburgh, 1; Lorain, 2; Franklin, 1; Mahoning Valley, Ohio, Mary, 1; Wheeling District, Ohio, Jefferson, 1; Hanging Rock Region, Ohio, Lawrence, 1; Madison, 1; Olive, 1; Alabama, Clifton, 1; Allee, 1; Illinois, Union 2; Wisconsin, Bay View, 2; Mayville, 1.

In some instances the proprietors of the furnaces blown out state that their action is taken for the purpose of making repairs, but in such times as these repairs are not usually done under pressure, and it may be assumed that after the repairs are completed such furnaces will not be blown in unless their product is needed. Meanwhile, other furnaces are to be blown out as soon as stock now in hand is used.

It is true that the August report shows a further accumulation of stocks, but the rate of reduction of output in the last month represents about 170,000 tons per month, or about double the recent monthly rate of accumulation of metal.

In the meantime the closing down of so many rolling mills on account of labor difficulties and for other causes must be leading to a steady depletion of stocks of finished goods, so that in that direction, too, the situation is becoming intrinsically sounder.

Then we are finding relief in our export trade. Very considerable quantities of steel billets, tin plate and sheet bars, skelp, wire rods and finished articles have been shipped, and have been contracted for shipment, at prices which net rather better than for the home market, in spite of the fact that they are very much lower than those ruling in the British open markets. In other words, there is the prospect that considerable additional business may be put through, although freight rates are high and show a stiffening tendency. Costs abroad are on a high level, through scarce fuel, high labor and costly ores.

Prices here are to some extent unbalanced, finished products being relatively much lower than the crud or semi-finished forms, a condition of affairs which practically rules out those who do not control the materials from the ground up. If the demand must call upon them for product, the raw material must decline or the finished product must advance.

Future of Lake Superior.

In the following words the New York Sun depicts the future function of the great Canadian-United States lake: "Immense quantities of water have tumbled every hour for ages over the sandstone ledges at Sault Ste. Marie in undignified haste to leave the greatest of lakes and join the humbler Huron. Here were built the American and Canadian canals that carry more tonnage of freight every year than any other. It is estimated that it takes about one one-thousandth part of the escaping waters of Lake Superior to operate the locks in these canals. It occurred to eastern capitalists a few years ago that it would be a good idea to utilize the rushing waters, not needed by the traffic canals to generate electrical power. Before very long the idea took form in the shape of a canal which keeps a lot of turbines so busy that they supply 20,000 horse power of electrical energy operating the largest wool-pulp mill in the world. Its annual product sells for \$900,000 a year; and this is only the beginning of the work which the power at St. Mary's Rapids is expected to do.

"With the possibility of developing vast power at this place, the company began to look around for raw materials to turn into useful products. When power is secured it is natural to scan the neighborhood for stuffs to be transformed by it into marketable commodities. It was found that vast forests of spruce stretch away east and west and as far north as Hudson's Bay. This is the ideal timber for paper making, and the company decided to go into the business of manufacturing not only mechanical wood pulp, which is produced in the mill now operating, but also sulphite or chemical pulp, which is worth nearly twice as much a ton. The sulphite mill is now nearly completed and its product will be worth \$1,500,000 a year. Of course, large supplies of spruce are needed

for these mills, and ample material was assured by the government of Ontario, which granted large concessions at small cost for stumpage. But sulphurous acids is also needed for chemical pulp, and the company asserts that it will have an independent supply of this useful chemical substance. It claims to have discovered a means of procuring the material for its manufacture from the sulphuric substances associated with the nickel mined at Sudbury. It has, therefore, bought a nickel mine, and also a large area of iron-bearing lands. For the first time the sulphur obtained at Sudbury is to be utilized, and the nickel will be associated with the iron in the manufactures at Sault Ste. Marie. For the first time, also, the ores of iron are to be reduced to steel by electricity; a part of the product will be nickel steel, the toughest in the world, and much of it will be used for making armor plate.

Meanwhile, vast works are in progress for the development of more electrical power. A canal on the Michigan side of the river, to give 50,000 horse power, is nearly completed. A large part of this power has already been secured by a company producing alkali and another manufacturing carbide of calcium. The latter company already has the largest carbide works in the world at Niagara Falls. Another canal, which is expected to provide about 100,000 horse power, is also being dug on the Canadian side.

"Of course, it would not do to lower the level of Lake Superior by thus facilitating the escape of its waters. Every port on the lake would suffer, and the governments of the two countries concerned would not permit such an encroachment upon commercial facilities. So work will begin this fall on the construction of a great stone dam across the head of the rapids, and steel gates in the dam will admit the waters to the canals only as fast as it is required and without lowering the lake level.

"Thus the waters of our great inland sea are to be utilized for industrial purposes, and two particularly interesting facts are to be noted. One is that the raw materials for these enterprises are drawn from the surrounding country, hitherto destitute of manufactures, and the wealth-producing power of this vast region will thus be greatly augmented. The other is that the waters thus usefully employed at the foot of Lake Superior may be utilized again at Niagara Falls."

"Our boss won't let us offer any excuses when we make mistakes." "Why not?" "He says it hurts his feelings to see us waste time in which we might be making more mistakes."—Chicago Record.

Winnipeg Lumber Prices.

Following are wholesale prices, delivered at Winnipeg, for pine lumber:

TIMBER AND DIMENSION—Timber, 4x10 and 12, 6x10 and 12, and 8x10 12x12, 12, 14 and 16 feet long, \$20; timber 8x10, 4x4 to 4x8, and 4x12, 3x12, 12, 14 and 16 feet long, \$18; dimension, 2x4 to 2x12, 12, 14 and 16 feet long, \$17.50; dimensions, 2x4, 10 feet long, \$18; dimensions, 2x8 to 2x12, 10 feet long, \$17.50; dimensions, 2x4, 10 feet long, \$16.50; dimensions, 2x4 to 2x12, 6 and 8 feet long, \$16; cut plank, all widths, \$12; cut plank re-sawn \$12 \$1 per M advance on each inch 12 in. in depth and width, \$1 per M advance on each 2 feet over 10 feet.

BOARDS—First common boards, red pine, 10 to 18 feet, \$23; second common, 10 to 18 feet, \$18; third common, 10 to 18 feet, \$17.50; culls, 10 to 18 feet, \$10; 1/2 inch sheathing, S.I.S., 10 to 18 feet, \$14; second common stock, 12 in., 10 to 18 feet, \$10.50; second common stock, 8 to 10 in., 10 to 18 feet, \$18.50; No. 1 wide box boards, 10 to 18 feet, \$28; No. 2 wide box boards, 10 to 18 feet, \$20.50. \$2 per M less for 8 feet and under.

SHIFLAP—Shiplap, 8 and 10 in., \$19; shiplap, 6 in., \$18; shiplap, culls, 8 and 10 in., \$19.50; culls, 6 in., \$13.50. \$2 per M less for 8 feet and under.

FLOORING, SIDING AND CEILING—Flooring and siding, 8 and 10 in., \$20.00; flooring and siding, 8 and 10 in. culls, \$16.50; flooring, siding and ceiling, 4, 6 and 8 in., first white pine, \$30; do., second white pine, \$22; do., third white pine, \$25; do. 5 and 6 in. first and second red pine, \$27.50; do., 4 in. first and second red pine, \$23; do., 5 and 6 in. third red pine, \$22.50; do., 4 in. third red pine, \$21.50; do. 5 and 6 in. fourth red and white pine, \$19.50; do., 4 in. fourth red and white pine, \$17.00; do., 4, 5 and 6 in. culls, \$15.50. \$2 per M less for 8 feet and under. \$1 per M advance for dressing two sides, 1 1/2 and 1 3/4 in. flooring, \$1 per M advance over 1 in. Bevel siding, No. 1, 1 1/2x6 in., \$21.50; bevel siding, No. 2, 1 1/2x6 in., \$18.50.

FINISHING—1/4, 1/2 and 2 in. first, second and third clear white pine, \$45.50; do., select white pine, \$35.50; do., shop \$30.50. \$5 per M advance on 2 1/2 in. and thicker, 1 1/2, 1 3/4 and 2 in. clear red pine, \$31.50; do., selected red pine, \$27; 1 in. first and second clear white pine, \$48; do., 1 1/2 in. clear white pine, \$37; do., 3. select white pine, \$30.50; do., 3. select white pine, \$25.50; No. 1 stock white pine, 12 in., \$42.00; do., 8 and 10 in., \$40; No. 2 stock white pine, 12 in., \$37; do., 8 and 10 in., \$35; No. 3 white and red pine, 12 in., \$30.40; 3 and 10 in., \$28; 1 in. clear red pine, \$31.50; do., select, \$20.50. Selected widths, \$2 per M extra.

MOULDING—Parting strips, per 100 lineal feet, 40c, window stops, do., 50c, door stops, do., 75c quarter round and cove, do., 50c; 4 in. casing, do., \$1.00; 6 in. casing, do., \$2; 6 in. casing do., \$2.40; 8 in. base, do., \$3.25; 10 in. base, do., \$4. All other mouldings, 50 per cent discount off universal moulding list. Lath, per M, \$3.50; pine shingles, 6 in. clear butts, per M, \$1.75.

Woods & Scott, butchers, Roland, Man., have sold out to D. Marshall.

The Winnipeg General Trusts Company

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL \$500,000

CAPITAL STOCK SUBSCRIBED \$100,000

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