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the building trades have given employment to much labor, both skilled and unskilled. Altogether conditions in this respect seem to be better than for the corresponding period last year. The mild winter which we are having will create a demand earlier than usual. Unskilled labor, which locates in cities as a rule, feels the lack of demand earlier. The cry of the unemployed this season has not been heard from all points as in the past.

### CANADIAN STEEL IN BRITISH MARKETS.

The Commercial Intelligence.—The Dominion Iron and Steel Company threatens to become a formidable competitor of British rail manufacturers in the markets of the Empire. A short time ago this Canadian Company carried off an important order for steel rails for an Indian railway, despite the competition of the United Kingdom rail manufacturers, and they have now scored another success in obtaining from the Government of New South Wales an order for nearly 18,000 tons of rails. The British manufacturers evidently are handicapped by their membership of the International Rail Combination in competing against this outsider, and have called a meeting to consider how the situation is to be met. A serious factor in the situation is the fact that the Dominion Company receives a Government bounty on the iron used in the manufacture of rails for export.

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