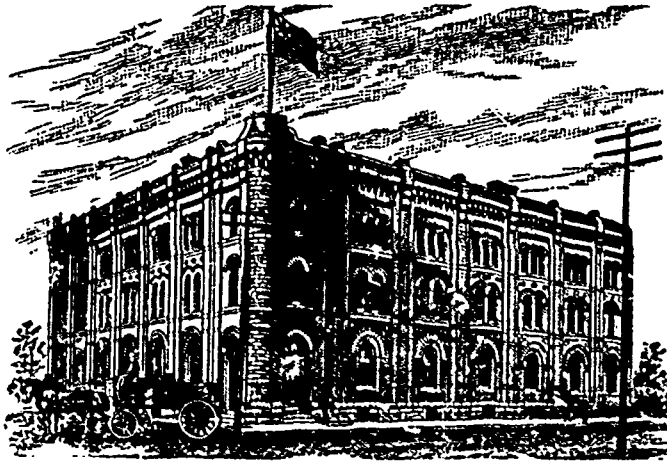


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Talk About Tinplate.

There has been a controversy in various newspapers of late as to whether tinplate is being manufactured in the United States for industrial use. It seems to have arisen because of an alleged assertion on the part of some body or bodies that before the new tariff on tinplate went into effect (July 1, 1891) "the American tinplate manufacturing industry" would be in a position to practically supply the home demand. The date mentioned in the foregoing is at hand and naturally interest is keen to learn whether the alleged prediction is likely to be fulfilled. A competent and representative metropolitan New York daily newspaper reasserted the truth of the proposition referred to, about two months ago, and was violently antagonized by other equally enterprising journals. Not long ago the admission was made by the journal first referred to that the home market demand for tinplate was not being supplied by domestic tinplate plants. Since then the question has arisen as to whether American tinplate at all is being made for legitimate industrial consumption in the home market, or which point there has been some difference of opinion. It is noteworthy that one or two public offers for good-sized (specified) quantities of home-made tinplate by responsible parties have not been accepted by any of the thirty firms reported to be members of the "American Tinplate Manu-

facturers' Association of the United States," which would certainly seem to indicate that this infant industry is really, as yet, an infant. Nor is any surprise called for because such is the case. It would, on the contrary, be quite remarkable, were we able within, say, a year to create a plant of sufficient capacity to supply the enormous home demand for tinplate. The whole trouble appears to be that some rash friends of the "future great" tinplate industry have been so carried away by their enthusiasm as to claim to be able to do more than by any possibility they could expect to do within the time allowed. And, it should be added, some of the intending tinplate makers would have been wise to have claimed less and admitted more. It is probable we may supply ourselves with tinplate—some day—but there was and is no necessity of declaring (as some ill-advised friends of the project have done) that we would be able to accomplish this within a period in which, as intelligent people must all know the thing is a manifest impossibility.

One of the wide-awake organs of the manufacturing industries is the *Chattanooga Tradesman*, and that journal, in a review of this tinplate controversy, sensibly says that "there was never even serious talk of a tinplate industry in the United States until within the last twelve months. We import fully 300,000 tons of tinplate per year from Wales, which is, in

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the matter of bulk, quite equal to 400,000 tons of pig iron, and in value close upon \$22,000,000. The industry in the United States, if it becomes such, must necessarily be of slow growth. The Welsh makers of tinplate are firmly established, have enormous capital in the business, and will not surrender their colossal business in this country, even if they are forced to pay the duty of 2-2-10c. a pound imposed by the McKinley tariff. They are certain to try to save that amount by reducing wages, cheapening their raw material, lowering their freights and putting up with narrower profit.

"If there is serious intention among iron capitalists to throw down the gage of battle to the Welshmen for the control of the United States tinplate supply, there will be a long and hard contest that will go on for many years, just as has the fight for our steel, finished iron and correlative supplies. It has required thirty years of toil and the loss of millions under the protection of exemplary duties for our iron masters to attain the control of our home market, and we still import a good deal of steel, some raw iron and large quantities of wire, cutlery, etc."—*Bradstreet's*.

For Jamaica.

The wholesale firm of Gillespies & Co., of Montreal, have chartered the sailing vessel St. Joseph to take a cargo of Canadian produce to Jamaica, consisting of flour, butter, fish, preserved meats, butter and cheese. The vessel on her return trip is expected to bring sugar, rum, coffee and spices. The result of this, the first venture of the kind from Montreal, will be looked forward to with considerable interest by the trade generally. Occasional stray shipments have before been made, but the above is the first ship that has been chartered at this port exclusively for opening up a direct trade between Montreal and Jamaica.—*Trade Bulletin*.