

his statement before the Committee on Ways and Means, a year ago last May, Mr. Jas. Park, of Pittsburgh, Pa., testified as follows: "In reference to the quality of iron needed for the better grades of steel, I wish to say that, in my opinion, we have iron in this country, in New York, in Michigan, in Missouri, and in some other States, which is equally as good as the best grades of Swedish iron; some of the worst iron that I know of comes from Sweden."

* * In all my experience I have found that our own iron makes a steel of the best grade, equal in every respect to the best imported cast steel."

There is one other point in regard to this question of Swedish iron that is so often mentioned that, though its absurdity is well known to every intelligent steel manufacturer, we wish to say a word about. We refer to constant harping about Dannemora iron. It is asserted that to make the best grades of cast steel in this country we must have Dannemora iron, and we are quoted "Hoop L," "Hoop G" and "Double Bullet," as though it was the chief ingredient in all English best cast steel. To one who knows the amount of iron made from the Dannemora ores yearly, the talk is simply ridiculous. The annual production of ore from these mines does not exceed 25,000 tons and has varied but little for 20 years. The ore analyzes from 25 to 60 per cent. metallic iron; very little has over 50 per cent. and the average is much under this. These mines are held under a tenure that prevents more than a certain quantity being raised. It is also important to know in this connection that these mines are isolated, that is, they do not lie in the usual iron region.

Now with these facts the position so often assumed that the quality of English steel depends upon the use of the irons made from these ores is simply absurd. These irons are made in the Provinces of Upsala and Stockholm, the annual production in the former being 4,465 tons and in the latter 2,010, a total of 6,475 tons. How far this would go toward making the steel of England, let alone the 50,000 tons made in the United States, we leave our readers to judge.—*American Manufacturer.*

THE RICE MARKET.

The beginning of October usually witnesses the opening of the new crop year for rice, though often, as in the present case, the harvesting is far advanced and various parcels have found their way to the market a few weeks in advance of the regular opening. The past year has been one that must have proved highly satisfactory to both planters and dealers, as, notwithstanding the reports of damage by untimely rain storms during the harvesting, it was soon found that the yield would be fully as large as the year previous, and interested parties who hoped to make capital by giving circulation to the unfavorable reports were themselves bitten when it was ascertained that the crop would aggregate an excess over that of the year previous, which it did to the extent of 2,020 tierces. In quality the crop turned out fully equal to any preceding year, which tended farther to disappoint these operators. It

proved, in fact, a surprise to all, as it had been pretty generally conceded, early in the season, that the proportion of damaged rice would be very large.

The range of values has been circumscribed, the variations being much less than the year previous, when the market was affected by the panic, being at that time unreasonably depressed, but prices afterward becoming unduly enhanced during the speculative excitement attendant upon the East India famine. The year opened with full prices, which declined gradually until February, when the usual speculative movement took place; this, however, merely checked the downward tendency for a short time, when it returned and continued until Spring, at which time the lowest point was reached. The increased consumptive demand in May caused a hardening of prices, which have continued steady, with but slight fluctuations, until the present time.

The following table gives the yield for the years 1871, '72, '73, '74, and '75, the yield of North Carolina in 1874, and that of all the states in 1875 being estimated:

	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.
N. Carolina.	500	600	750	600
S. Carolina.	42,842	47,240	43,067	47,268	50,000
Georgia.	11,252	19,874	23,702	21,671	23,000

Totals.....54,592 67,714 67,519 69,539 73,000

We give below a tabular statement of the highest and lowest prices of prime and fair grades for each month of the past two years:

	FAIR.		PRIME.	
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.
September.....	6½	8.1-16	8½	7.9-16
October.....	5½	7½	6½	7½
November.....	5½	6½	6	6½
December.....	5½	7	6½	7½
January.....	7	7½	7½	8
February.....	7	7½	7½	8
March.....	7½	7½	7½	8½
April.....	7½	7½	7½	8½
May.....	7½	7½	7½	8½
June.....	7½	7½	7½	8½
July.....	7	7½	7½	8
August.....	7½	8	8	8½

	FAIR.		PRIME.	
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.
September.....	5½	7½	6½	8
October.....	6	6½	6½	7½
November.....	5½	6½	6½	7½
December.....	6	6½	6½	7½
January.....	6	6½	6½	7½
February.....	6	6½	6½	7½
March.....	6	6½	6½	7½
April.....	6	7	7	7½
May.....	6½	7½	7½	7½
June.....	6½	7½	7½	7½
July.....	6	7½	7	7½
August.....	6	7½	7½	7½

Of the crop just being harvested many conflicting reports have been published, but the latest reliable intelligence—which we have every reason to believe will be fully verified—is thus fully stated by Dan. Talmage's Sons & Co., of Charleston, S. C. in their annual circular, to whom we are also indebted for the above valuable statistical information:

"The turn-out of the new crop is now the subject of much speculation. As usual, there has been an untoward event (the drought), which is quickly taken up as the text to the yearly discourse on a 'short crop.' The 'drought' unquestionably, in some individual cases, did an

irretrievable damage. The shorter rivers were salt almost to their sources, and the crops on plantations not provided with fresh water reserves, being deprived of the irrigation necessary to the development of the grain, in some cases were so hopelessly damaged that they were abandoned. These instances, however, are but few, being, from self apparent reasons, magnified by those interested. If estimates from such sources were to be relied upon, we should have not more than half a crop. From more reliable information, however, covering a large area, we learn that an abundant crop may be expected. The rains, which set in about the latter part of August, were timely and refreshing, which, with the unusually fine harvest, has fully restored the prospects of an abundant yield, except in a few cases on the rivers above alluded to and on the highland and backwater plantations. The aggregate of estimates from the various sections, which have been carefully gathered, warrant us in predicting that the yield of the coast States will be fully seventy-three thousand tierces, being an excess of about five per cent. over last year. All accounts agree that the season has been one favorable to the production of a fine quality, and anticipate that in this respect the crop will average a much higher grade than for several years past.

"The acreage under cultivation did not materially vary from that of previous years; this fact, however, does not necessarily limit the production to that previously made, as, year by year, the plantations are being brought up to a higher standard, and are capable, under most favorable circumstances of condition and season, of producing nearly double their present growth. All the features attending the rice culture are encouraging. The labor question, which was at one time seriously perplexing, is happily adjusting itself, the evidence from every quarter being that it is improving in efficiency. The financial standing of the planters also, as the rule, is improving—the prices of the past few years being sufficiently remunerative to enable them to expend liberally in the movements of their plantations, and the more prudent to accumulate with such rapidity that they can now plant without the usual recourse to capitalists for assistance."—*Mercantile Journal.*

DIFFICULTIES WHICH OPPOSE AMERICAN MANUFACTURERS.

Hear what foreign manufacturers of plate glass say of their business, their profits and their future determinations: "We have had a LARGE AND PROFITABLE trade in America; we can afford, and will sell polished plate glass for years at a loss rather than yield this trade to American manufacturers."

These coalitions passing resolutions to crush American industry and enterprise are not new. They have existed in various forms for more than two hundred years.

At the close of the war of 1812-15 Lord Brougham—though at that time one of the most liberal among British statesmen—advised English and Scotch manufacturers and traders to export British goods freely to America; to rush their goods into our ports at all hazards and sell at any price—for anything, to check the progress of American manufacturing