

volts and an aperture of 0.74 inch in the nozzle, he felt the current at a distance of  $3\frac{3}{4}$  feet, and with an aperture of about 2 inches could not get nearer than about  $3\frac{1}{4}$  feet. Under the same conditions, but with alternating current, he could not stay within 8.2 feet, and at 3,600 volts he had to remain at a distance of  $26\frac{1}{4}$  feet.

### INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISE.

The municipality of Berlin, Ont., will next spring construct new filtration beds and other extensive improvements for sewerage farm purposes. The cost is estimated at \$60,000.

A factory has been established on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, below Saguenay, to manufacture oil, glue and fertilizers out of Greenland sharks, of which there are large numbers in that vicinity, running some of them from 200 to 600 pounds in weight.

A despatch from Boston announces that the Fall River iron works, operating four print cloth mills, will cut down wages next Monday, and on that day also nearly all Rhode Island and Connecticut manufacturers will adopt the lower schedule. A cut in New Bedford is to occur in two weeks.

On Tuesday last there was a conference in Montreal of leading men in the rubber trade. Views were exchanged as to current and future operations. Mr. Miner, of the Granby works, who was in the chair, declared that there is no proposal by the manufacturers to increase the prices of their products.

The dumping process has begun in earnest. A despatch from London of a recent date stated that the Monmouths Wire, Steel and Tin Plate Works, employing a thousand hands, announces that owing to the dumping of American and German steel in Great Britain, the profitable continuation of its business is improbable. It has notified its employees that after November they will be engaged under weekly, instead of monthly contracts. The company has spent £40,000 during the last five years in modernizing its plant.

The industrial situation, in Sherbrooke, Que., has been very unsatisfactory of late owing to the low condition of the Magog river and the abundance of ice and snow prevailing. Some of the establishments using electric power have already had to close down, and many storekeepers and householders have had to use candles and lamps owing to the poor quality of the electric light. The light and power company claims it is not to blame, but that the difficulty is caused by interference with the natural flow of the river by the Paton mills. One remedy suggested is the lowering of the channel at the foot of Lake Memphremagog.

During last week there were three companies with a capitalization of a million or over, which received Dominion Government charters. One, the Pacific Coal and Oil Company, of Toronto, has an authorized capital of no less than \$17,500,000. As its name implies, its aim is to produce and refine oil, also carry on mining, milling, reduction and development enterprises. Among the charter members is J. S. Lovell, Toronto. "Canadian Contractors," Toronto is another company just chartered, its capital being \$3,000,000. Mr. E. L. Sawyer, Toronto, being one of the incorporators. The American Asbestos Company, headquarters at Montreal, capital, \$1,000,000, is a corporation in which Mr. H. M. Whitney, of Boston, and Mr. B. F. Pearson, of Halifax, are interested.

Many of the best surgeons in New York, says the New York Times, send their instruments for repairs to a man in Brooklyn. A specialist says: "Surgical steel can be wrought and wrought only in England. The famous surgeons of Berlin and Vienna must send to England for their instruments. In modern surgery, where life or death depends absolutely upon the reliability of the instrument to do exactly the work that the operator expects of it, no surgeon will take chances with a knife, scissors or forceps that he cannot depend upon as absolutely as he can depend upon his own nerve."

The proportion of Canadian workers in the various indus-

tries in the State of Massachusetts is no less than 13.01 per cent., or nearly one-seventh. This seventh is shown by the State Board of Labor Statistics to be composed of 7.54 per cent. French-Canadians, 2.65 per cent. Nova Scotians and 2.82 per cent. other English Canadians. The figures of the Bureau show that 44.41 per cent. of Massachusetts' industrial population was born under the British flag. Out of a total population of 2,805,346, shown by the census of 1900, there were 1,079,006 classed as workers. Among these 28.70 per cent. were Irish, 2.32 per cent. Scotch, and 13.01 per cent. Canadian. It is curious that none are specifically classed as coming from England and Wales. It is curious to observe that only some 37½ per cent. of all the workers in the State were born in the United States, and only 19¼ per cent. of them born in Massachusetts itself. Analyzing the nationalities of the people in the State, Massachusetts, at the time of the last census, had, in its population of 2,805,346, no less than 843,324 persons of foreign birth. The report of the Bureau shows that the foreigners are chiefly of the working class.

### HOUSE ROOM IN TORONTO.

With a view to finding some data in the difficult question of house room in the city of Toronto, and its relation to increasing population, the Globe recently examined the assessment statistics of some 150 houses in representative districts. These figures show that while in 1898, the number of occupants in these houses was 778, it is now 935, or an increase of about 20 per cent. Growing density of population in a city is a feature for which those who have the people's best interests at heart cannot feel thankful. One reason, no doubt, is the non-existence of houses of the sort required, while another, growing out of this, is the increased rents which Toronto families are now called upon to pay for the accommodation offered. In 1898 the average rental of the aforesaid residences was \$14.20; now, it is \$18.80, or an advance of 32 per cent. This would be all very well if the people generally were in a position to pay the higher rate, but their wages or incomes have increased\* in no such proportion. Property owners, however, say that returns from real estate are still materially lower than those from other classes of investment.

### DRY GOODS ITEMS.

Joseph Benn & Sons, of Clayton and Bradford, England, have decided to establish a branch of their extensive business at North Providence, Rhode Island, U.S., for the manufacture of mohair, alpaca and other materials. That municipality has agreed to exempt the firm from taxation for a term of ten years.

There seems good reason to believe that the policy of being in a position to retaliate for harmful tariffs has more supporters in the country than the protective policy which is the chief plank in Mr. Chamberlain's platform. Mr. H. B. Bruce, J.P., of the firm of Bruce & Sons, Wigston, Leicester, recently gave his views on this subject to an interviewer. He represents the elastic web industry. "We used to do tens of thousands of pounds' worth of trade with America twenty years ago," he said, "but now we do not do anything at all." In Mr. Bruce's opinion, if a duty is put on any goods going into a country, the manufacturer has always to pay at least one-half. In the '70's and '80's there were employed in the elastic web trade more than 10,000 people, principally at Leicester, Derby, Nottingham and Coventry. To-day there are not 1,000 hands engaged in the industry. This destruction has been entirely due to foreign tariffs. "The principal thing we want," concluded Mr. Bruce, "is a reduction of the tariffs abroad, but we shall not get this until we have a weapon which we can use against foreign countries. We ought to be able to say to other nations, 'If you put prohibitive duties on our goods, we will do the same to yours, and get our colonies to follow our example.'" Of course, the belief is that this would bring about a reduction of foreign tariffs.—Drapers' Record, Nov. 21st.