

appearance of being nickel-plated. The corrodability of nickel-steel lessons as the amount of nickel in its composition increases. Low percentages of nickel affect this property slightly; high percentages, however, about 18 per cent., tend to produce an alloy which is practically non-corrosive.—H. F. J. Porter, in Cassier's Magazine.

JAPANESE MARKETS.—A few years ago Mr. George Anderson of Toronto was commissioned by the Department of Trade and Commerce to proceed to Japan for the purpose of investigating the chances of opening up a trade in Canadian goods with that country. On his return he reported that there were favorable openings for many lines of Canadian goods, and strongly recommended our manufacturers to look after their interests in the ever-increasing markets of the East. Some of the articles especially mentioned by Mr. Anderson were: flour, canned goods, condensed milk, biscuits, food-stuffs generally, leather, rubber and gutta percha goods, books and stationery, asbestos, cottons, lumber, pulpwood, papers, electrical apparatus, etc. The Department of Agriculture has now in preparation an exhibit for the great exposition to be held at Osaka, Japan, next March. The Japanese Government has set aside a separate building for Canada's exclusive use, while exhibits from other foreign countries will be shown in what is called the foreign sample building. Canadian manufacturers interested in the sale of their goods in Japan, China, etc., will do well to communicate with the Commissioner of Exhibitions, care of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, from whom all information concerning this Exhibition can be had.

THE TRANSVAAL TARIFF AMENDMENTS.—According to a despatch from Pretoria an extra issue of the Official Gazette says:

The amended tariffs are only provisional, the Government desiring ultimately to enter the customs union on a basis which will not sacrifice vital interests of the Transvaal. The negotiations thus far have been unavailing because the Transvaal does not feel justified in increasing the duties on certain food-stuffs to the extent which the coast colonies consider necessary for the protection of their products. In the meanwhile the conditions in the Transvaal preclude further delay in adjusting the unjustifiably high duties and the duties ordinarily reasonable but excessive in a country which practically has to be refitted. The duties therefore are abolished on machinery, building materials, metals and agricultural implements. The large sacrifice of revenue involved is considered preferable to increasing by taxation the cost of renewing industrial capital of the colony.

As it is imperative, however, to replace a portion of the loss, the duties on wines and spirits are increased. The existing duty on dynamite is left unaltered owing to questions bearing on the conditions of its manufacture and importation into the Transvaal being under discussion, but

the duty will be separately dealt with as soon as possible. The duty of six cents each on poles, two cents a pound on sulphuric acid, six cents a pound on lead and twelve cents a pound on copper wire are cancelled. All iron will be admitted free, and the cost of building will be greatly reduced by the removal of the duties on cement and timber.

The alteration of the duty on cigars and cigarettes from \$3.75 per hundred cigars, without distinction of size, to \$1.50 a pound, and on cigarettes from \$3.75 per thousand cigarettes to \$1 a pound, is considered equitable.

The special duties on jams and confectionery of \$10 per 100 pounds will be reduced to three cents per pound; the special duty of \$2.50 on oats, \$1.25 on oat hay, and the special duty on coal will be abolished.

Anomalous duties will be amended. Many of the changes to be made have been agitated for years, especially with regard to matches, which were specially taxed \$1 per gross for the benefit of the company owning the concession. This tax will be now reduced to fifty cents per gross.

No mention is made of the special duties which were suspended in 1897 owing to the agitation here, but which the Government reserved the right to re-impose. They remain suspended, but it is expected that they would be repealed.

INTERNATIONAL STORES.—What are called "line stores," and in many cases are so designated by large signboards, are a well-known institution along the boundary between Canada and Maine, writes a Bangor correspondent of the Philadelphia Record. The governments of both Canada and the United States look with suspicious eyes upon these stores, and there has been more or less talk of joint action to prevent the erection of any buildings upon the boundary line.

The line stores on the Quebec border are usually built exactly on the boundary line, and are double stores. The boundary line is marked by iron posts, and sometimes a store is built over one of these posts, which protrudes from the middle of the floor.

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