

the factory took pains to mark all over the lists and drawings that the stuff was to be planed on the back side only—this to bring it to a proper thickness—and that all exposed surfaces were to be left as sawn. In due time, chancing to be in the warehouse, he saw stacked up ready for shipment all this outer finish fully dressed and planed, and of course it all had to be thrown away. It is safe to say that the next time the managers of the factory estimate on work in which the surfacing is to be omitted they will add something to cover the chance of having to do the work over again.

#### GERMAN CEMENT INDUSTRY.

The over-production of cement in Germany has resulted in demoralizing the market. Cement having been offered as low as 60 cents per barrel, the cement makers of Germany are gradually agreeing on the "sales agency" plan, which has proved so successful in the potash salts industry. Fourteen cement works in Rhenish-Westphalia have already announced that they are in an incorporated syndicate with limited liability which appraises membership according to productive capacity by allotting one share to each thousand casks of annual output. For each share of working capital the members deposit in cash \$6.25, and as security \$12.50 in bills. A member may sell 40 per cent. of his quota, and should his orders call for a larger quantity, the syndicate is privileged to substitute the brands of other members whose business may not be equally prosperous. The selling price will be fixed annually by the syndicate, and any surplus from sales will be divided among the members in the ratio of their shareholdings. As yet no allotment of exports has been made, but it is obligatory for members in the syndicate to pay a tax of \$1.25 for every 10 tons exported. What effect this tax will have on export prices may be conjectured. American consumers imported from Germany last year 245,966 long tons of cement, which was equivalent to 50.3 per cent. of the total foreign receipts.—Cement and Engineering News.

Ten miles of granolithic sidewalks have been laid in Ottawa this summer. The cost was practically the same as last year, about 16 cents per square foot.

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