

Britain, will probably fall below more than 1,000,000 tons, although in the previous year surpassing by over 700,000 tons. The recuperative energy of the United States was never more strikingly shown than in the jump made in the production of pig iron in 1895—namely from 4,087,558 tons in the first six months to 5,358,750 tons in the last six months.

The huge output thus attained undoubtedly exceeded the requirements of the country, and the iron trade is now suffering from the consequences of the excessive production. Yet despite present appearances it is altogether probable that this year will see the figures for 1895 exceeded, and that the 10,000,000-ton mark will be finally reached and passed. The overproduction of last year was in the last half of the year, when the output was 5,358,750 tons. Up to October 1st there seemed to be almost a pig iron famine. At that time the production of pig iron was proceeding at the rate of about 200,000 tons weekly. By November 1st, however, furnaces were making 217,000 tons weekly and that rate was practically kept up until in December, closing the year with furnaces running at the rate of 207,000 tons weekly. For a time, therefore, the output was at the prodigious rate per annum of 11,250,000 tons. At the close of the year the annual rate had fallen to 10,750,000. With consumption proceeding at its current rate production cannot be restricted much further. The country is very far from being in the condition of paralysis which followed the panic of 1893 and continued all through 1894.

The consumption of pig iron last year, according to the data of production and stocks presented by the American Iron and Steel Association, and estimating total imports at 50,000 tons, was 9,651,504 tons, against 6,718,960 tons in 1894, 7,007,194 tons in 1893 and 9,318,742 tons in 1892, which was the next largest year. The consumption therefore exceeded the production by over 200,000 tons. But this does not tell the story quite so forcibly as the figures for the consumption during the last half of the year, which are 5,379,208 tons, or far beyond any period in the history of the country. From these figures similar a considerable shrinkage could take place and still leave the requirements of the United States at over 10,000,000 tons of pig iron annually from this time forward.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

In fifteen years the number of gasoline stoves in use in the United States has grown from a thousand to over two million.

We have pleasure in stating that pig iron is now being made in Ontario, the furnace of the Hamilton Iron and Steel Company, Ont., just blown in, having turned out its first batch of pig on Feb. 3rd instant. It is expected that in a few days the furnace will be working to its full capacity of 150 tons per day.

Mr B. T. A. Bell, who has edited and published the Canadian Mining Review for the past ten years, has acquired the whole ownership of the paper and its property. For the present the office of publication of the Review will remain at Ottawa, but offices will be established at Montreal from which, in future, the paper will be dated.

The returns which Finance Minister Foster recently presented to the House of Commons, showed that from April 4

1895 to January 9, 1896, 30,311 tons of pig iron were made in Canada, upon which \$72,688 had been paid in bounty; and that from March 31, 1895 to December 31, 1895, 26,419 tons of steel billets were made calling for a bounty \$52,838.

The North Eastern Lumberman says that if the proposed new United States tariff bill should become a law it would help the lumber business in that country by relieving the strain of Canadian competition. It is more than probable that if that bill becomes law, and a duty is laid upon Canadian lumber that is now going into that country free, the challenge would be quickly answered by Canada in the imposition of an export duty on logs. The sooner such a duty is imposed the better for Canada.

Canvas sails have heretofore been used exclusively, but as a lighter, more elastic and air tight material is desired, the proposition at present is to make the sails gossamer weight from rubber, rope them strongly along foot, luff and leach, and the result may be superior sails. But even rubber has its drawbacks. A sudden increase of wind-power expands the sail too much, and difficulty is experienced in governing the course of the boat. So attention has been turned to that unfailling source from which so many things are now made—paper, says an exchange. The paper pulp is obtained from usual sources, pressed into sheets and stitched together, making a light and effective sail.

A movement is on foot in New South Wales to develop the iron resources of that colony. At a meeting held recently in Sydney it was stated that the colony, of which it is the capital, annually imported about 170,000 tons of pig iron, while the imports of iron and steel in its crude and manufactured state equals about \$12,500,000. It is estimated that the pig iron requirements of the colony will be about half a million tons by 1920. Although ore is plenty there is not a pound of iron produced in any of the seven colonies comprising Australia. In New South Wales particularly there are important deposits of rich iron ores, and that, too, with coal and limestone in unlimited supply.

The record of embezzlements in the United States, last year, revealed losses of only \$10,000,000 compared with \$25,000,000 1894 and \$19,000,000 in 1893. The Herald, which gives these figures, thinks they are an evidence of the improvement in trade, resulting from the operation of the Wilson tariff law. Unfortunately for this theory the failure statistics for 1895 in the United States show an increase, both in number and liabilities over 1894. If the embezzlers got less last year than they have been in the habit of securing, it looks as if it was because, under a so called tariff reform party, the country's business concerns had less for them to take. There is a proverb which says it is hard to remove the breeches from a Scotchman in kilts.—Montreal Gazette.

The agent of an American concern has on exhibition in Toronto, a weighing and calculating machine made in the United States, and which he is offering for sale here at precisely the same prices it is sold at in that country. To a representative of this journal the agent explained that, to obtain a foothold in Canada his company recognized the fact that it must pay the Canadian duty upon the machine. The Canadian