

mediately after writing, prices being put up full 5c. a gallon. Spot stocks are comparatively light, and some importers are said to have turned over their purchases in England with considerable advantage, instead of having the goods sent out. On the other hand, turpentine has undergone a decline, single barrels being now quoted

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at 53c. per gal. Seal oil is very scarce, last sales of steam refined being quoted at 60c., while straw seal is quoted at 42½ to 50c., according to grade. The market has seldom been so bare of seal oil, and no new oil is expected before three or four weeks. There have been unconfirmed rumors that the Standard Oil people are trying to secure control of the whole of the new crop. Cod oil is also in limited supply, there being practically no Newfoundland oil on the market here, and only a small quantity of Gaspe. Quotations are: Single barrels, raw, and boiled linseed oil respectively, 77 and 80c. per gallon, for one to four barrel lots; 5 to 9 barrels, 76 and 79c.; net, 30 days or 3 per cent. for four months' term. Turpentine, one barrel, 53c.; two of four barrels, 52c.; net, 30 days. Olive oil, machinery, 90c.; Col. oil, 35 to 40c. per gal.; steam refined seal, 60c. per gal.; straw, ditto, 42½ to 50c.; Castor oil, 9 to 9½c., in quantity; tins, 10 to 10½c.; machinery castor oil, 8½ to 9c.; Leads, (chemically pure and first-class brands only), \$6.25; No. 1, \$5.75; No. 2, \$5.50; No. 3, \$5.25; No. 4, \$4.75; dry white lead, 5½ to 6c.; for pure; No. 1, do., 5c.; genuine red, ditto, 5c.; No. 1, red lead, 4½ to 4¾c.; Putty, in bulk, bbls., \$2.00; bladder putty, in bbls., \$2.20; do., in kegs, or boxes, \$2.35; 25-lb. tins, \$2.45; 12½-lb. tins, \$2.75. London washed whiting, 45 to 50c.; Paris white, 75 to 80c.; Venetian red, \$1.50 to \$1.75; yellow ochre, \$1.25 to \$1.50; spruce ochre, \$1.75 to \$2; Window glass, \$2 per 50 feet for first break; \$2.10 for second break.

Wool.—The London sales are still going on with a very fair amount of competition, and very few lots are being withdrawn. The advance of about 7½ per cent. in fine merinos is well sustained. Locally, business is dull, only a few bales moving. Local quotations are as follows: Capes, 13½ to 15c; Natsals, 15 to 16c.; BA., scoured, 25 to 32c. Domestic fleece is being bought at 14 to 15c.

A LESSON FROM INDIA.

Canada might learn a lesson regarding forest preservation from India, says an American consular report. The Government of India found that, as a result of the destruction of forests by axe and fire, vast tracts of land had been desolated, and there was danger that the whole country would become barren if the work of destruction were allowed to continue, for a country without forests is likely to be afflicted with alternate floods and droughts. The work of protecting the forests was begun in India in 1844, and gradually extended, but it has been placed upon a thoroughly scientific basis only during the last twenty years. The service is divided into two hundred and ten departments, under the direction of expert foresters, most of whom have been trained in Germany and France. They are assisted by a number of subordinate officials, many of whom are natives of India. In each province, there are state forestry reserves, and altogether these reserves cover an area of more than 80,000 square miles, which will eventually be largely extended. A large revenue is already derived from the forests by the Government of India, and it is expected that it will steadily increase.

Nearly all of the settled portions of Ontario, Quebec, the Maritime Provinces, and British Columbia were at one time covered with forests. Many districts altogether unsuited for agricultural purposes have been denuded of trees. If the provincial governments had profited by the experience of other countries, these districts would have been maintained as forestry reserves, and would now yield a large annual revenue. But it is in the districts where the forests still remain that scientific forestry can accomplish the

best results. It is stated that there are still vast areas of forest lands which may be made a permanent source of wealth to the people. One of the conditions of land grants to farmers should be that a certain number of acres should be kept permanently covered with trees. Great pains should be taken to preserve forests at the sources of the river systems, as the water supply of the country depends upon them.

It is also stated that in establishing a forestry department in any province, none but trained foresters should be appointed to the service. In the first place, it would be necessary to engage foresters from abroad. Germany, they say, is the country most advanced in the science of forestry, and the Government derives an immense annual revenue from the forests. Experts should be brought from Germany, and inducements should be offered to young Canadians to go over to Germany and study forestry, with the understanding that when they become proficient in the science, they can secure employment in the service of their own country.

It may be stated that recently the Dominion and some of the provincial governments have been devoting considerable attention to this question of preservation of our forests.

AUSTRALIA'S WOOL AND MEAT.

There are people in the United States, who believe that Australia, and not England, will be the future rival of America in the islands of the Pacific and on the Asiatic continent. In the valuable item of wool production, Australia already leads. South America and Continental Central Europe come next, with about 500,000,000 lbs., and 450,000,000 lbs. product respectively, while the United States and Canada, combined, make a bad fourth, with only 272,000,000 lbs., out of a total annual output from the whole world of considerably over 2,000,000,000 lbs. Indeed, Australia is the only country where wool production is largely on the increase, and it has been estimated that under favorable circumstances her output could be increased to about 1,000,000,000 lbs. annually or nearly half the world's supply. Australian flocks have been known to double their number in four years, and this process, if repeated a few times, would soon realize a much more extravagant estimate. Of course each of the different Australian colonies has its own special characteristics, says Leslie's Weekly. Queensland is the second largest wool-producing colony after New South Wales, her sheep having increased in twenty years from 3,000,000 to nearly 18,000,000, while the total value of the wool raised during that period was nearly \$30,000,000.

In frozen meats, also, the Australian States are already cutting a large figure in the world's commerce. No less than thirty refrigerating steamers, with a carrying capacity of nearly two million carcasses, are now running regularly between New Zealand and London, and about seventy more with a similar capacity between Australia and British ports. Between 1882, when the trade started, and 1896-97, the frozen meat shipments jumped from 1,500,000 lbs. weight to over 150,000,000 lbs. for New Zealand, and the value from next to nothing to £1,500,000, as against about £660,000 sterling for Queensland, and a little over a quarter of a million sterling for New South Wales.

THE report of the Winnipeg city tax collector shows that the amount collected last year for municipal and special taxes increased over that for the previous year by over \$176,000.