

Trade Solid South will form but a very inconsiderable political portion—unless some of them wheel into the Protection column, as is not improbable.

### THE CANADIAN SEWER-PIPE INDUSTRY.

IN some localities in the "Sunny South" when a "nigger" is accused of crime, he is first immediately strung up by the neck to a tree or his body filled with buckshot, and afterwards public opinion pronounces upon his guilt. Of course this subsequent proceeding does not prove very interesting to the accused, but that is the idea those people have of "justice." Very similarly our esteemed contemporary, the *Canadian Architect and Builder*, attempts to dispose of the sewer-pipe industry of Canada. It receives a letter "from a gentleman in the United States" who desires some information regarding the business in this country, and immediately, upon *ex parte* statements from witnesses who deny the truthfulness of the language imputed to them, proceeds to demolish and ruin, as far as in its power lies, a domestic industry which has already assumed considerable importance, and which, we are glad to say, is abundantly appreciated by those who know a good thing when they see it. It does this by stating that the sewer-pipe factories in Canada "supply but a very small percentage of the sewer-pipe used in this country;" that "the largest proportion is imported either from Scotland or the United States," and "that such a large proportion has to be imported is due to the inferiority of the pipe at present manufactured in Canada as compared with the imported article."

This outrageous and unnecessary assault upon a meritorious Canadian industry called forth a rebuke from this journal, which in its last issue showed the injustice of the attack. We therein published the testimony of Mr. A. E. Carpenter, president of the Toronto and Hamilton Sewer-Pipe Company, of Hamilton, Ont., and of Mr. W. C. Trotter, president of the Standard Drain-Pipe Company, of St. John's, Que., to the effect that sewer-pipe of their manufacture were in use in a large number of cities and towns in the Dominion; that these were brought into fair competition with foreign made pipe, and that the general verdict was that the Canadian pipe was as good as any, and in some important instances better than that of foreign manufacture.

The *Architect and Builder* in its last issue is very restless and unhappy because of the *faux pas* it had committed, and attempts to palliate its silly offence. It tells that the information on which its offensive article was written, was obtained from Mr. Robert Carroll, a well-known dealer in sewer-pipe in Toronto, whose statements "were condemnatory of the quality of Canadian-manufactured pipe, and tended to show that a profitable opening existed in Canada for the establishment of a factory for the manufacture of a pipe more nearly equal in quality to the imported article." Mr. Carroll emphatically denies that he made any such statements, and as between that gentleman and the editor of the *Architect and Builder*, there seems to be an issue of veracity which they can settle to suit themselves.

A remarkable confession on the part of the *Architect and Builder* lies in the statement that "upon reading the denials of the Canadian sewer-pipe manufacturers"—published in this

journal—"we at once set to work to make a full investigation into the whole subject." This is really very funny, and reminds us of the southern method of disposing of the accused African. There was no qualification to the original derogatory statements concerning the inferior quality of Canadian sewer-pipe, although the editor of the *Architect and Builder*, having no personal knowledge of the matter, based his remarks on the statements of a gentleman who denies having made them. But our contemporary goes further and fares worse. It does not go in the direction of an effort to repair the grievous wrong which it had done by acknowledging its error, but it seeks to substantiate it by soliciting professional opinions from city engineers in certain Canadian cities, and following is the gist of their replies:—

From Mr. E. E. Perreault, City Engineer of Ottawa—"The corporation of the city of Ottawa does not permit the laying of any other brand but Scotch vitrified clay pipes." From Mr. Hurd Peters, City Engineer of St. John, N.B.—"All the sewer-pipe used here is imported from Scotland. Cement sewer-pipe is made at St. Stephen's, in this province, but I have no experience of its character." From Mr. J. O. Bolger, City Engineer, Kingston, Ont.—"We use Scotch sewer tile altogether. The city did put in some Canadian pipe before my time." From Mr. E. H. Keating, City Engineer, Halifax, N.S.—"The bulk of drain-pipe hitherto used in this city is of home manufacture. Smith & Kaye, of Enfield, N.S., were formerly the makers, but lately the work has been carried on by H. C. Preedy. Within the past year some pipe from St. John's, Que., has been used." From Mr. Thomas H. Tracy, City Engineer, London, Ont.—"We use Canadian and American pipe, and find the Canadian pipe quite equal to the American." From Mr. P. W. St. George, City Surveyor, Montreal—"This city has a contract with the Standard Drain-Pipe Company, of St. John's, Que., and I have found their pipe to be of good quality. I have made a great many tests, and it gives me pleasure to say that the Canadian pipe compares most favourably with any imported from Europe. The city contracts for sewer-pipe are open to competition to everybody; and, as the Standard Drain-Pipe Company of St. John's happened to be the lowest, it was given to them."

This is the evidence of all the witnesses the defendant has introduced, but it will be observed that none of them speak depreciatingly of Canadian sewer-pipe. In Ottawa and Kingston unaccountable prejudices prevent even the testing of Canadian pipe; while in St. John, N.B., the geographical situation seems to be in favor of Scotch pipe. In Halifax the bulk of the pipe used is of home manufacture; in London the Canadian pipe is declared to be quite equal to the American; and in Montreal, where the different products come into equalized competition, and where the article is placed entirely upon its merits, we are told the Canadian pipe compares most favorably with any imported from Europe.

We have before us several similar documents bearing upon this question. Under date of February 12, 1885, the City Engineer of Toronto furnishes a statement of the result of several tests made with Hamilton-made pipe and others, in which it is shown that a 12-inch Hamilton pipe stood an internal hydrostatic pressure of 60 lbs. to the square inch, without ooze or damage, while one 12-inch American pipe,