

from the patients' wards to the medical theatre, and from the nurses' quarters to the commodious kitchen, are arranged perfectly and in thorough keeping with the general magnificence of this institution, which will certainly do much to enhance Montreal's reputation for fine architecture.

The articles of incorporation define the objects of the institution to be for the benefit of "sick and injured persons of all races and creeds without distinction," a broad-gauge principle of philanthropy which we should naturally expect in the men who were generous enough to bestow such a magnificent gift upon their city. The act contemplates the establishment of convalescent cottages, as branches, at Banff, N.W.T., and at Caledonia Springs, Ont.

REVIEW OF THE METAL TRADES.

MONTREAL, Dec. 14th, 1893.

Since the close of the navigation the movement in the heavy metal trades has been small as usual, and the market altogether is in an unsatisfactory condition. Although the number of houses in this branch of the trade is smaller than a year or two ago, competition seems to be quite as keen, if not keener than before. Tin plates have sold very low during the past year, and during the disturbances caused by the McKinley tariff, some English firms dealing with Canada, and whose market was largely in the United States, have closed down indefinitely. The depressed condition of this trade may be inferred from the fact that plates which sold ten years ago at \$8 or \$10 now realize only \$3 to \$4, while the wages paid to miners and operatives are slightly higher than then. Last month we referred in this report to the fact that American producers of steel have endeavored to compete in Canada with English firms, and now we learn that American wire manufacturers are invading this market, chiefly in Ontario. The progress of this movement will be watched with interest, but some are of the opinion that it is only by the recent cutting of freight rates on the railways that Americans are able to do this. The German manufacturers of gas and water-pipe seem to be gaining a firmer hold on the Canadian market.

METAL IMPORTS FROM GREAT BRITAIN.

The following are the values in pounds sterling of shipments of metals, etc., from Great Britain to Canada, as shown by the British Board of Trade returns for October, and for the previous ten months, compared with the same periods of last year:—

	October.		10 months ended Oct.	
	1892.	1893.	1892.	1893.
Hardware and Cutlery	£ 9,647	£ 7,769	£ 81,384	£ 83,065
Pig iron.....	11,007	9,002	71,265	48,121
Bar, etc.....	3,919	2,037	31,018	23,918
Railroad	51,241	26,892	351,955	494,649
Hoops, sheets, etc.....	12,009	13,528	71,239	61,379
Galvanized sheets	9,613	13,032	50,898	64,326
Tin plates.....	25,119	44,792	173,646	183,013
Cast, wrought, etc., iron ..	8,520	11,520	88,817	105,991
Old (for re-manufacture) ..	5,562	8,034	70,518	97,895
Steel	17,023	13,902	114,602	114,930
Lead	3,773	2,061	28,328	14,782
Tin, unwrought	4,351	6,068	28,928	27,952

MAKING wrought iron pipe direct from the bars is the process recently started in a rolling-mill at Stubenville, O. If it works it means a complete change in pipe manufacture.

A PROFESSOR OF BLACKSMITHING.

The following item appears in a recent issue of the *Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Advance*, and the heading is as above:

"We have, it seems, furnished a professor to that ancient institution of learning, Harvard University, in the person of J. G. Telfer, son of the late Richard Telfer, of North Queens, a professor of whom we feel disposed to be just as proud as if he filled the chair of Greek, or Latin, or history, or medicine, or any of the "ologies," though he stands at his anvil, with apron on and brawny arm bared, while the sparks fly from the sturdy blows of his deft hammer, for Mr. Telfer is nothing more nor less than professor of blacksmithing, and the skill and application that secured him his position, with a salary of \$1,200 per year and incidentals, was mainly acquired in an unpretentious smithy of his native province. J. G. Telfer began to learn the trade of blacksmithing with his brother-in-law, James Loveless, at Caledonia, Queen's Co., at the age of 14, and served an apprenticeship of five years."

To be sure, if he is a good blacksmith and a good man, as we must suppose he is from the choice made, the *Advance* does well to be proud of him. The man dignifies the office, not the office the man. But lest there be snobbish folk who despise a handicraftsman and think that only the learned professions are tony, let it be remembered that Peter the Great of Russia was a shipwright, and that certain German royalties of the present day have been taught trades, actually among prosaic shavings and iron-filings in a "vulgar" shop.

A professor of blacksmithing. And why not? If we had more professors of handicrafts teaching and demonstrating in our colleges, we should, as a people, be better off. The trades should have a chance. Have not the ologies and the istries been taught to our young men until there are more doctors than can get patients, more lawyers than can get clients, more parsons than can get charges. And yet the artisan is esteemed a comparative nobody, and the merchant of a lower social stratum than the "professional man." A different state of things prevailed in the middle ages. Then, a merchant was often such a swell that he owned not only farms galore, but whole villages and townships. Helen Zimmern relates that a worthy shoemaker became burgher of Lubeck, then visited Rome as a pilgrim, and afterwards was named shoemaker to the German Knights, a very honorable office. And a clever artificer in iron was regarded in the light of an artist. If the learned professions have social precedence to-day, the artisan can look back proudly to the days of the Hanseatic League, with its factories at Bergen and Bruges, its steel-yard wharf in London, to the time when Charles IV. addressed the Council of the Hansa as "lords," and declared that Lubeck, a trading town of the League, ranked with the cities of Rome, Venice, Pisa and Florence, imperial in importance. And indeed, as history tells us, the shoemakers and tailors of Lubeck thought no small beer of themselves in the old days. Nay, he may sing that old Tubal Cain was a man of might in the days when earth was young; and, if he choose to go back to the myths of the ancient Greeks, he may boast that the god Vulcan, son of the great Olympian Jupiter, in addition to being a blacksmith, was an architect, a house builder, an armourer, and shod the steeds of the gods with gold. Not only so, by his mythical power this divine artisan endowed with life the brazen or golden images that he framed in the