

ly calls for the regular reduction upon this figure.

In lines of heavy hardware there is nothing special to note, tinplate being quoted on spot at \$3.20 for coke and \$3.75 for charcoal. Canada plates have sold at \$2.50 in lots, and some ternos changed hands at \$7.25 to 7.75. The various iron manufacturing associations, as already noted in these columns, have held meetings, but no striking change is to note aside from that in bar iron. Wire remains unchanged, and so do wire nails, but coated nails are 10c per 100 lbs. nett over bright nails. In tacks there has been some readjustment, prices being reduced on the following lines, the discount for which now stands as follows:—Trunk nails  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 inch, 65 per cent;  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch, 60 per cent; box tacks, 62 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, and trunk tacks, 57 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Pressed spikes and railway spikes remain as before and there is no change in washers.

Galvanized and sheet iron remains the same. There is some scarcity in copper here, but the fact has not influenced prices, which rule steady at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 13c. Tin is steady and unchanged at 22 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 23c.

A good business has been done during the week, and varnishes have come in for a fair call. We quote:—Choice brands, Government standard, \$5 25; do., No. 1, \$4 87 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; do., No. 2, \$4.50; do., No. 3, \$4; No. 4, \$3 75; dry white lead, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; red lead, pure, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; do., No. 1, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent off these prices allowed for ton lots. Zinc, \$7 25 No. 1, and \$6.25 No. 2.

The oil market has been fairly active. Lined oil is easier at 63 $\frac{1}{2}$  for boiled and 60c for raw. Seal oil is firm, and the fish oils are quiet and unchanged.

There is no change in glass, which is quiet on the basis of \$1 35 for first break. Putty in bulk is steady at \$1 90.

Cement, Petroleum, etc.—Cement is in good demand for delivery from stock, and prices remain firm at our quotations of last week. The

probability of a late opening of navigation and reduced stocks has the effect of keeping prices stiff. We quote from \$2.45 to 2.65. Firebricks are in fair demand, with no change in prices, \$19.00 to 26.00.

A very fair demand is reported for refined petroleum for this season of the year. While 12c is the nominal quotation for round lots of Canadian, sales are reported considerably below this figure, the refiners having started in to cut prices right and left. We quote Canadian 12c at shed in Montreal for round lots, and 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for five barrel lots, and 13c for small quantities. American petroleum, 18c in car lots, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$  in 10 barrel lots, 19 $\frac{1}{2}$  in 5 barrel lots, and 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for single barrels, 2 per cent off for cash. American benzine, 23 to 25c; Canadian benzine, 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; Petrolea; 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, Montreal —*Gazette*, April 14

### The Manufacture of Dynamite.

A dynamite factory consists of a number of large houses, widely separated from each other, and of a number of small huts away in the distance, half buried in the ground, and used for the purpose of storing the nitro glycerine, the essential principle of dynamite. Each process in the scheme of manufacture has a house for itself, and each has a chief skilled in proportion to the danger which is encountered. A large tank is provided full of glycerine, while the acid drips slowly into it from a pipe above. The mixture of pure glycerine, nitric acid and oil of vitriol produces nitro glycerine, the most deadly explosive known, so powerful that an ounce of it compressed would blow one into atoms, and so liable to explode that the least detonation or jar will instantly fire it. It is positively the most awful stuff to deal with that man has ever discovered, remarks a contemporary. No one really seems to know when it is going off; sometimes it will stand a good shake, at others the veriest jostle will produce a disaster. And there in the tank was enough of the fearful compound to destroy a city! One

could not resist the thought that if this stuff, which often explodes by spontaneous combustion, should go off now. The foreman kindly told me, says a writer in *Invention*, of London, that if such a thing did happen, no man would find a hair of my head or a fraction of my limb. He seemed perfectly unconcerned as he told the tale, and then he showed me a thermometer dipped in the mixture to register its temperature. "If the heat of this mass goes up 6 or 7 degrees," he said, "the stuff will explode. I keep my eye constantly on that glass, so that if a fast rise in temperature took place I should open the tap at the bottom of the tank and let the nitro glycerine run through into a watertank." Fancy five degrees Fahrenheit standing between eternity and yourself! When in the open I asked my guide if there had ever been a case when that shed had been blown up, and he said, "once," but he told me that the mass is often run off from the tank, and nearly always without trouble as the record proves. With all this, I can imagine no more dreadful life than that of the man who stands daily before that cistern of death, and has but a few degrees of temperature between himself and utter annihilation.

The cut nail combine is to be maintained. This decision was reached at a meeting of the Cut Nail association held at Montreal, at which the leading firms were represented. It was unanimously decided to sustain existing prices. The combine was strengthened by the admission of Moore & Foster, of St. John, N. B., and the Star Manufacturing company, of Montreal into the association.

Boot and shoe manufacturers, says the *Montreal Trade Bulletin*, have great difficulty in filling their spring orders on time, although shipments are being made as promptly as possible; but the urgency for immediate shipments appears too much for our shoe men to satisfy, and country dealers will have to exercise their patience for a short time yet.

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