

construction and improvement work in and about Greensburg, Pa. The Pennsylvania lines west of Pittsburgh and Erie are also planning to spend several million dollars in building double track roads and removing grades.

SEWERAGE AND WATERWORKS.

Manitoba.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.—The water system is now perfect and the service is the best in the history of the city. A new well has been installed at the river, and the railway companies now use water from this well, which is pumped to the power house by a motor. It cost \$1,350 to dig the well, and that much or more will be expended in fitting it up with galleries.

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Montreal, August 25th, 1909.

Conditions in the United States are showing a very decided improvement all along the line. Not only are prices advancing, but furnaces and mills are in receipt of good orders, and many of them are now behind on deliveries. Pig iron prices are now firmer, on a basis of \$13.50 per gross ton at Birmingham, for Southern, and \$15.25 f.o.b., Valley furnaces, for No. 2 foundry iron, and \$16 Valley furnaces, at a minimum, for Bessemer iron. This shows an advance of \$1.50 to \$2 per ton from the low prices which prevailed last March, and while demand has been less aggressive during the past few days, prices continue firm, with higher figures being asked for future deliveries. As a matter of fact, some furnace interests have withdrawn from the market and are declining to quote for future delivery this year. Some makers are asking \$1 advance on present prices for 1909 deliveries. The volume of iron now being made is quite up to the high record of 1907—that is, at the rate of 25,500,000 per year. Last month's production was at the above rate, and this may be exceeded during the present month.

English and Scotch markets are also being influenced by the improved conditions in the United States and here, and the optimistic reports which are the result. Cleveland warrants have shown an advance of 1s. 6d. during the past week and prices have advanced in the Scotch markets by fully 2s. 6d. per ton within the past ten days. Even now, there is an indisposition on the part of Scotch makers to book orders for large quantities at the advance. Stocks of warrants in Connell's stores continue to show an increase, but a slight improvement in trade conditions would soon alter this condition. Prices on finished material have not as yet reflected this advance in London and Scotland, this being due to some extent to the fact that German and Belgian makers continue to quote low figures. Conditions in both Germany and Belgium are very flat, and attractive prices can be had for large lots.

Local conditions are showing a steady improvement, not only in the matter of prices, but in the volume of business done. Many consumers, particularly large ones, have apparently reached the conclusion that the present is the time to buy, and a fair tonnage has recently been booked, particularly for import iron. The Eastern Canadian furnaces are not pushing sales. The furnaces of the Hamilton Steel and Iron Co. are at present out of blast, for repairs, the only furnaces in Canada in a position to offer prompt shipment being the Midland, of the Canada Iron Corporation, the Deseronto furnaces of the Deseronto Iron Co. and the Antikoken furnaces of the Antikoken Iron Co. The latter two are only able to supply special grades of iron. The result is that prices are showing a decidedly upward tendency, asking figures being now fully \$1 per ton higher than a month ago. This advance corresponds approximately with the higher figures obtaining in the United States and Scotland. Generally speaking, the foundry trade in Canada is rapidly taking on a much more healthy tone.

The steel trade is also improving and the market is firmer all round, in sympathy with the situation on the other side, where prices are up about 30c.

In manufactured and semi-manufactured goods, the tone of the market is firm and demand is showing some improvement. Price changes are becoming rather more frequent, as will be seen from the list this week, as follows:

Antimony.—The market is steady at 8¾ to 9c.

Bar Iron and Steel.—Prices are steady and trade is quiet. Bar iron, \$1.85 per 100 pounds; best refined horseshoe, \$2.10; forged iron, \$2; mild steel, \$1.85; sleigh shoe steel, \$1.85 for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$1.90 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$2.35; machine steel, iron finish, \$1.90; smooth finish, \$2.70; imported, \$2.20.

Boiler Tubes.—The market is steady, quotations being as follows:—1½ and 2-inch tubes, 8¾c.; 2½-inch, 10c.; 3-inch, 11¾c.; 3½-inch, 14 1-2c.; 4-inch, 18 1-2c.

Building Paper.—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounces, \$1.80 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; dry sheathing, No. 1, 30 to 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; tarred fibre, 55c. per roll; dry fibre, 45c. (See Roofing; also Tar and Pitch).

Cement.—Canadian cement is quotable, as follows, in car lots, f.o.b., Montreal:—\$1.30 to \$1.40 per 350-lb. bbl., in 4 cotton bags, adding 10c. for each bag. Good bags re-purchased at 10c. each. Paper bags cost 2½ cents extra, or 10c. per bbl. weight.

Chain.—Prices are as follows:—¾-inch, \$5.10; 5-16-inch, \$3.95; ¾-inch, \$3.55; 7-16-inch, \$3.35; ¾-inch, \$3.20; 9-16-inch, \$3.05; ¾-inch, \$2.95; ¾-inch, \$2.90; ¾-inch, \$2.85; 1-inch, \$2.85.

Coal and Coke.—Anthracite, egg, stove or chestnut coal, \$6.75 per ton, net; furnace coal, \$6.50, net. Bituminous or soft coal: Run of mine, Nova Scotia coal, carload lots, basis, Montreal, \$3.85 to \$4 per ton; canal coal, \$9 per ton; coke, single ton, \$5; large lots, special rates, approximately \$4 f.o.b., cars, Montreal.

Copper.—Prices are strong at 13¾ to 14c.

Explosives and Accessories.—Dynamite, 50-lb. cases, 40 per cent. proof, 15c. in single case lots, Montreal. Blasting powder, 25-lb. kegs, \$2.25 per keg. Special quotations on large lots of dynamite and powder. Detonator caps, case lots, containing 10,000, 75c. per 100; broken lots, \$1; electric blasting apparatus:—Batteries, 1 to 10 holes, \$15; 1 to 20 holes, \$25; 1 to 30 holes, \$35; 1 to 40 holes, \$50. Wire, leading, 1c. per foot; connecting, 50c. per lb. Fuses, platinum, single strength, per 100 fuses:—4-ft. wires, \$3; 6-ft. wires, \$3.54; 8-ft. wires, \$4.08; 10-ft. wires, \$5. Double strength fuses, 4-ft., \$3.75; 6-ft., \$4.20; 8-ft., \$4.83; 10-ft., \$5.37. Fuses, time, double-tape, \$6 per 1,000 feet; explometers, fuse and circuit, \$7.50 each.

Galvanized Iron.—The market is steady. Prices, basis, 28-gauge, are:—Queen's Head, \$4.40; Comet, \$4.25; Gorbals Best, \$4.25; Apollo, 10½

oz., \$4.35. Add 25c. to above figures for less than case lots; 26-gauge is 55c. less than 28-gauge. American 28-gauge and English 26 are equivalents, as are American 10½ oz., and English 28-gauge.

Galvanized Pipe.—(See Pipe, Wrought and Galvanized).

Iron.—The outlook is strong. The following prices are for carload quantities and over, free on dock, Montreal, prompt delivery: No. 1 Summerlee, \$20 to \$20.50; selected Summerlee, \$19.50 to \$20; soft Summerlee, \$19 to \$19.50; Clarence, \$17.50; Midland or Hamilton pig is quoted at \$20 to \$20.50, Montreal. It is said Dominion and Scotia companies are not quoting prompt delivery. Carron special, \$19.50 to \$20; Carron soft, \$19.25.

Laths.—See Lumber, etc.

Lead.—Prices are about steady, at \$3.55 to \$3.65.

Lead Wool.—\$10.50 per hundred, \$200 per ton, f.o.b., factory.

Lumber, Etc.—Prices on lumber are for car lots, to contractors, at mill points, carrying a freight rate of \$1.50. Red pine, mill culls out, \$18 to \$22 per 1,000 feet; white pine, mill culls, \$16 to \$17. Spruce, 1-in. by 4-in. and up, \$15 to \$17 per 1,000 ft.; mill culls, \$12 to \$14. Hemlock, log run, culls out, \$13 to \$15. Railway Ties; Standard Railway Ties, hemlock or cedar, 35 to 45c. each, on a 5c. rate to Montreal. Telegraph Poles: Seven-inch top, cedar poles, 25-ft. poles, \$1.35 to \$1.50 each; 30-ft., \$1.75 to \$2; 35-ft., \$2.75 to \$3.25 each, at manufacturers' points, with 5c. freight rate to Montreal. Laths: Quotations per 1,000 laths, at points carrying \$1.50 freight rate to Montreal, \$2 to \$3. Shingles: Cedar shingles, same conditions as laths, X, \$1.50; XX, \$2.50; XXX, \$3.

Nails.—Demand for nails is better, but prices are steady at \$2.30 per keg for cut, and \$2.25 for wire, base prices. Wire roofing nails, 5c. lb.

Paints.—Roof, barn and fence paint, 90c. per gallon; girder, bridge, and structural paint for steel or iron—shop or field—\$1.20 per gallon, in barrels; liquid red lead in gallon cans, \$1.75 per gallon.

Pipe—Cast Iron.—The market is unsettled and uncertain, as dealers are compelled to meet competition from all sources. Prices are easy and approximately as follows:—\$31 for 6 and 8-inch pipe and larger; \$32 for 5-inch and 4-inch at the foundry. Pipe, specials, \$3 per 100 pounds. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

Pipe—Wrought and Galvanized.—Demand is much better and the tone is firm, though prices are steady, moderate-sized lots being: ¾-inch, \$5.50 with 63 per cent. off for black, and 48 per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$5.50, with 59 per cent. off for black and 44 per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$8.50, with 69 per cent. off for black, and 59 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 72½ per cent. off for black, and 62½ per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$11.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1¼-inch, \$22.50; 1½-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; 2½-inch, \$57.50; 3-inch, \$75.50; 3½-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

Plates and Sheets—Steel.—The market is steady. Quotations are: \$2.20 for 3-16; \$2.30 for ¼, and \$2.10 for ½ and thicker; 12-gauge being \$2.30; 14-gauge, \$2.15; and 16-gauge, \$2.10.

Rails.—Quotations on steel rails are necessarily only approximate and depend upon specification, quantity and delivery required. A range of \$30.50 to \$31 is given for 60-lb. and 70-lb.; 80-lb. and heavier, being \$30; rails, per gross ton of 2,240 lbs., f.o.b. mill. Re-laying rails are quoted at \$27 to \$29 per ton, according to condition of rail and location.

Railway Ties.—See lumber, etc.

Roofing.—Ready roofing, two-ply, 70c. per roll; three-ply, 95c. per roll of 100 square feet. Roofing tin caps, 6c. lb; wire roofing nails, 5c. lb. (See Building Paper; Tar and Pitch; Nails, Roofing).

Rope.—Prices are steady, at 9c. per lb. for sisal, and 10¼c. for Manila. Wire rope, crucible steel, six-strands, nineteen wires; ¼-in., \$2.75; 5-16, \$3.75; ¾, \$4.75; ¾, \$6; ¾, \$7.25; ¾, \$8.50; ¾, \$10; 1-in., \$12 per 100 feet.

Spikes.—Railway spikes are steady at \$2.35 per 100 pounds, base of 5¼ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at \$2.85 per 100 pounds, base of ¾ x 10-inch, and ¾ x 12-inch.

Steel Shafting.—Prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is on the dull side.

Telegraph Poles.—See lumber, etc.

Tar and Pitch.—Coal tar, \$3.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing about 500 pounds; roofing pitch, No. 1, 70c. per 100 pounds; and No. 2, 55c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$8.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, and \$4.75 per half-barrel; refined coal tar, \$4.50 per barrel; pine pitch, \$4 per barrel of 180 to 200 pound. (See building paper; also roofing).

Tin.—Prices are unchanged, at 32 to 32½c.

Zinc.—The tone is steady, at 5¼ to 6c.

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Toronto, August 26th, 1909.

The now almost certain prospect of good crops in the North-West, the general success of Canadian farmers in securing good prices for their products, are reflected in the earnings in other departments of the country's industry. Business of all kinds is more active and prices are in many cases looking up, metal being a notable example. It is regrettable to learn of the disablement, at a time of increased production and very active orders, of one of the furnaces of the Hamilton Iron & Steel Works. The loss which the company must suffer is placed at a high figure.

In Great Britain, the price of iron for future delivery is advancing, and there is greater buoyancy in the trade. In the United States, as we note elsewhere, there is a genuine improvement, not bolstered by special interests.

Toronto finds business active, especially so in the way of house-building, which is in a great danger of being overdone, if not already so. The Industrial Exhibition promises to be a good one this year, and the retail activity will be thereby increased.

An experienced New York observer says there is every appearance of a sound actual revival in business in the iron and steel trade, which may be expected to grow and spread to other lines. "With the tariff now out of the way, and a bumper crop promised, basic conditions are now sound and promising." If, it is added, a reduction should come in the shape of a decline from the extravagant prices to which some securities have been forced in Wall Street, it would make very little impression on the generally favorable mercantile position and prospects in the U. S.

In harmony with this prediction of greater general activity, is the appearance of a circular from an important shipping house to its Canadian clients, dated 24th August, which says:

"We beg to advise that there is a serious car shortage impending which the railroad people now regard as certain between the present time and the coming winter, and we inform you of this so you may anticipate your requirements in our line as much as possible, sending in your specifications for immediate and future shipment."

When it is remembered that hundreds of thousands of cars were reported lying idle only a month or two ago, the significance of the announcement is great.

Antimony.—Demand inactive, market unchanged at \$9 per 100 lbs.

Axes.—Standard makes, double bitted, \$8 to \$10; single bitted, per dozen, \$7 to \$9.

Bar Iron.—\$1.95 to \$2, base, per 100 lbs., from stock to wholesale dealer. Market well supplied.

Boiler Plates.—¾-inch and heavier, \$2.20. Boiler heads 25c. per 100 pounds advance on plate.