

REMARKABLE HALF YEAR IN IRON.

The first half of 1899 is probably the most remarkable period the iron industry has experienced. The production has been increasing constantly since the beginning of the year, except that special conditions reduced the pig iron output for a few weeks in the winter. With a large increase in the furnace product the demand has taken it all and drawn down the stocks on hand to almost nothing. The advance in prices, says The Iron Age, was slow during the early months of the year. In the spring prices started up violently, and in the past six weeks the makers have been less conservative than they were in the winter, "and have been marking up prices more rapidly and with greater jumps as their capacity became sold further into the future and consumers' necessities appeared to increase." The most substantial increases occurred during June. At the beginning of the year all manufacturers of iron and steel who were near enough tidewater to make it practicable were soliciting foreign orders under the impression that they would need them to keep their works busy. As the event proved, the country had no finished products to spare, and the result of filling foreign orders has been to create a shortage in the home market. Consequently plates have doubled in price, and wire rods and steel billets have followed closely, carrying with them a long train of other products. Prices of steel rails and beams have not advanced so rapidly as prices of pig iron. For leading iron and steel products The Iron Age compiles the following table of prices a year ago, at the beginning of this year and now, supplemented by some comparative figures for 1892:

Products—	July 1, 1898.	Jan. 1, 1899.	At Present.
Bessemer pig, Pittsburg	\$10.40	\$10.65	\$18.50
No. 2 Southern pig, Cincinnati	8.75	10.00	16.00
No. 2 Standard pig, Philadelphia	10.50	11.00	17.50
No. 2 local pig, Chicago	11.00	11.00	18.00
Lake Superior Charcoal pig, Chicago	11.50	11.50	21.00
Steel billets, Pittsburg	14.75	16.00	31.50
Wire rods, Pittsburg	20.00	21.50	42.00
Heavy steel rails, Eastern mill	17.50	17.00	27.00
Common bar iron, Youngstown	.90	.95	1.70
Common bar iron, Chicago	1.00	1.00	1.80
Soft steel bars, Pittsburg	.90	.95	2.00
Soft steel bars, Chicago	1.05	1.10	2.00
Tank plates, Pittsburg	1.10	1.15	2.30
Beams, Pittsburg	1.15	1.20	1.75
Wire nails, single carloads, Pittsburg	1.30	1.35	2.45

These prices are generally higher than those of the same date in 1892. At the end of June of that year Bessemer pig was worth \$14 in Pittsburg, steel billets were \$23.50, wire rods \$21.50, soft steel bars \$1.65 and tank plates \$1.75. Steel rails and beams were a little higher then than now, but one would have to go back to 1890 to find prices generally as high as those now prevailing. The statistics of furnace capacity will probably show an increase for the month of June. On the first of June the furnace capacity was 13,000 tons a week greater than on the first of

January, and manufacturers' stocks and warrant stocks had been diminished 356,000 tons during the five months.—Railway World.

HEREDITY AND TRAINING.

The human being born, in the United States, to neither poverty nor riches has opportunity, with brains and honesty, for the highest and happiest development of the intellectual and emotional nature. Heredity is an inexorable law. By it are transmitted physical defects and mental and moral traits. No amount of discipline or instruction can make a philosopher or statesman out of a born fool. There must be mental and moral forces, inherited from ancestors of brains and integrity, in any individuality out of which it is possible to evolve useful and strong character. Nurture does much, but Nature does more in constructing the possibilities of a human career.

Duty of Parents.

The old-fashioned teaching that children owe all obedience, respect and consideration to parents is now somewhat out of date and parents often defer to the caprices of the children whom, by over-indulgence, they have made selfish and inconsiderate of the comforts and convenience of all those about them, regardless of age or relationship.

There is no crime of which a parent can be guilty which will reach further into the future, with baleful and blighting power, than the crime of rearing children who are not taught and disciplined in self-reliance and in self-denial. This world will neither respect nor nourish with kindly care any man or woman who is incapable of taking care of himself or herself. There is no

respect or affection, of permanency, for any human being who acknowledges incapacity for mental or physical effort for the purpose of self-support. The personality which is not taught, trained and inducted to self-helpfulness and disciplined to victorious self-reliance in this contentious world had better never have been born into its conflicting pleasures and pains. No father nor mother, no matter how great their fortunes may be in mere money, has any right in this republic to bring up a child in absolute indolence. The fortunes fly away. And those who have been reared in

idleness, and totally dependent upon others, become charges upon the general public. The paupers of today are those who were reared by wealthy parents and taught no self-reliance. The paupers of tomorrow will be the children of the wealthy of today who will have been brought up without work—without self-reliance and self-helpfulness. No parent has any right to rear a child in indolence. It is cruelty to children to indulge them in luxurious idleness and it is a crime against the community.

Self-Respect.

A personality, which after years of indulged indolence and luxury, realizes that it is incapable of voluntary self-denial, self-support and self-defence is equally incapable of self-respect. And without this, life is a misfortune, a burden to be cast away in crime, or suicide. Hereditary trend and ability have much to do with human success and happiness. But the best bred trotting colt in the United States will never develop his speed except by training and discipline. What is true of horses is likewise true of humans. No matter how well-bred, no woman and no man will develop into useful adult life who has not been repressed, encouraged, trained, disciplined, as to self-reliance and self-denial in childhood and youth.

A CONSOLIDATION VISION.

The railroad reporters of the New York dailies have had a busy week of it. Each vied with the other in an endeavor to provide the biggest railroad consolidation, and from a working alliance between the New York Central and the Pennsylvania they finally succeeded in perfecting, to their own satisfaction, three gigantic transcontinental lines, the New York Central, the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio being the Eastern divisions of these systems. It mattered little to these writers how much or how little truth their articles contained; all that was required of them was to have their stories bear earmarks of plausibility. And this they succeeded in doing admirably. Of course there is no truth in these articles; the writers themselves knew that, but competition among railroad reporters is as keen as it is among the railroads themselves. The desire for a "beat" probably started all the talk that has been heard on this subject. That some such scheme as has been outlined in these various articles may ultimately be realized is not improbable, but the time for its materialization belongs to the distant future, not to the immediate present.—Railway World.

The respectable pseudo conservative is the faith of the corruptionist and the joy of the boss. On days of election he walks up to the captain's box and settles according to the dictation of the boss.