

LOCAL FACTORY EXHIBITS GAIN IN OPERATIONS

Duluth Bedding Company Installs Additional Plant and Doubles Its Output—Trade Develops Through Districts Opened by New Railroad Lines.

American Oil Concerns Are Doing a Record Business—Standard Co. and Independents Are More Active Than at Any Time in Their Entire Histories.

An increase of over 25 per cent during the last six months in its output of mattresses is reported by the Duluth Bedding company.

The capacity of the company's present factory at 409 Lake avenue South is now 250 mattresses a day and arrangements are being made to double it through the installing of the latest type of felting machine and additional labor saving plant.

A full bedding line is being turned out by the factory with a specialty being made of box springs, in which, on account of their distinctive features, more than the average durability is claimed. General repair work of all kinds for the trade is also being made a feature.

Attention is drawn by the management to the fact that the various operations of the factory are conducted under the most approved sanitary conditions and a hearty invitation is extended to members of the trade to visit the premises and inspect the methods in vogue.

Growth of the industry is reflected in a present factory force of 15 as compared with only two at the time the enterprise was originally inaugurated by its proprietor, Charles Lavick. Associated with him now are his two sons, H. G. Lavick and M. F. Lavick.

Gratification is expressed by Mr. Lavick over the substantial demand being met with for his factory's product from the iron range territory and other districts contiguous to this city. Without special solicitation at the outset, substantial orders are being booked from points on the new "Soo" lines, including the Cuyuna range. Shipments have also been made recently to dealers at North Dakota points.

Substantial patronage is being accorded the factory by the Duluth furniture trade, attributable largely to a

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recognition of the advantages offered by a local plant through its being in a position to supply at the moment any pattern of goods desired, or to make up special lines according to specifications.

Record Oil Trade.

"Oil companies throughout the country are generally more active at present than at any time in their history," says the Wall Street Journal. "There is more excitement in oil fields in all parts of the country than for many years. The high price of crude oil has resulted in much prospecting for new wells and the continued unprecedented demand for petroleum products in taxing the oil companies to their utmost to meet requirements and prevent a depleting of surplus stocks. Pipe Line companies, producing concerns, refining and marketing companies are spending large sums on extensions and improvements to their businesses. Not only are the companies extending in the United States, but are spreading out all over the world. The shipments of the Standard Oil Co. from California to the Orient are constantly increasing and the California fields will be drawn on more extensively than ever for the Oriental business of the Standard in the future. Shipments to other countries are also on the increase; particularly is this true of the South American countries.

"The Magnolia Petroleum company of Texas proposes to take a big step to increase its supply in the not distant future by the extension of its 450 mile pipe line running from Electra, Texas, to Beaumont and Sabine on the gulf coast. The prospective route will run from Cushing to the Oklahoma field, a distance of about 200 miles, and will cost between \$1,500,000 and \$2,000,000. The present supply of crude is insufficient to meet the Magnolia refineries' requirements, but the completion of the proposed extension will mean the doubling of the company's supply.

"The Waters-Pierce company, it is understood, has completed arrangements for the construction of a refinery at Tulsa, Okla., with a capacity of 10,000 barrels. The Standard Oil company of Indiana is said to be planning a remodeling of its refinery at Neodesha, Kas., increasing its capacity from 7,000 barrels to 10,000 barrels and if the company is not ousted from Missouri the Sugar Creek refinery will probably be enlarged. Supreme court of St. Louis a few days ago passed a motion of Standard Oil company, Indiana, for rehearing motion for modification of ouster order and pending final action no ouster will be issued and the company will continue to do business in that state. The action to keep the Standard Oil out of Missouri brought vigorous protests from consumers in Missouri, who depend upon the Sugar Creek refinery for thousands of barrels of oil daily. Other of the Stand-

ard companies are also making enlargements and extensions in the various districts, as well as ordering new steamers and tank cars.

"At present the Standard Oil company of California has in the neighborhood of 27,500,000 barrels of petroleum stored in pipe lines and tanks. In January the California company drew on its surplus for 150,000 barrels. Much attention has been turned to the California fields recently and production in that state is much larger than at any time in its history. The Standard company's business in California is growing at a rapid rate. In addition to having all its pipe lines filled, as well as its storage tanks the company is now delivering oil to the Associated Pipe Line company on account of lack of storage facilities.

"The asphalt facilities of the California concern are being increased and at the close of the present year it is expected that it will have completed 45 asphalt stills with a capacity of 1,000 barrels each."

Copper Metal Advances.

BOSTON, Mass., April 6.—"The copper metal market is now at about 15 3-8 cents a pound, generally speaking, which is an advance of 1-8 cent a pound from the prevailing quotation of 15 1-4 cents last Wednesday. Abroad some sellers are asking close to 15 1/2 cents a pound for electrolytic, delivered 30 days.

"There is a good demand for the metal. Domestic consumers are purchasing freely for not far distant deliveries. Most of the orders coming in are for delivery not later than June 1. A continuance of the present demand by Europe and the United States will mean higher prices in the immediate future; in fact, one of the largest sellers predicts that copper will touch 15 1/2 cents a pound this week.

"One or two of the leading sellers have disposed of their entire output until the first of June and have withdrawn from the market for deliveries before that date."