

A CLOTHING and dry goods man of Aylmer, Que., named E. O'Reilly, who has made considerable of a splurge for that quiet village, is reported in financial embarrassment, and an accountant has been up investigating affairs for Montreal creditors. He shows the handsome (?) liabilities of some \$14,000. He has been overbuilding, and in other ways has been, as a villager phrased it, "trying to bite off more than he could well chew." Some \$4,000 of his liabilities are to a Glasgow house.

"The largest vessel on the lakes" is an expression whose application varies very often. Nearly every season a new boat comes out which has some sort of title to the appellation. It is now claimed for the new propeller "Maryland," which will be the flagship for the Inter-Ocean Transportation Company's fleet. She was launched at Wyandotte, Mich., a week ago. She is 335 feet over all, 316 feet keel, 42 feet beam, and 24 feet hold. This iron and steel steamer has a capacity of about 3,500 tons, on a draught of 16 feet. She cost \$250,000.

A FORTNIGHT ago a butcher in Montreal received from a woman a \$50 bill on La Banque d'Hochelaga, in payment for some meat, and gave her change for it. Later he found that it had been raised from a \$5 bill, and set the detectives to work. Last week a woman named Berthiaume was arrested, charged with pass-

ing a similar bill on a saloonkeeper. Sergeant Bouchard followed her home and arrested both the woman and her husband. Search in the house revealed a wooden box containing acids, type, glass cups and various utensils necessary for the work of raising bank notes.

ACCORDING to Dr. W. E. Everette, who writes to the Tacoma News, Puget Sound and the country adjacent to it has large deposits of coal of every grade of lignite and bituminous coal. As far as known, no true anthracite has yet been found in paying veins. Thin seams and pockets of a hard, lustrous coal, much resembling an anthracite, have been found in various places in the Puget Sound basin; but the great majority of the so-called anthracite discoveries in our district are actually only a hardened and crystallized bituminous coal, or an anthracite lignite or brown coal.

A VALUED correspondent in Vancouver complains that we have been unjust to Robertson Bros., dealers in stoves and tinware in that city, by describing them as involved. They send a statement of their own affairs, which shows assets \$4,000, and liabilities \$2,200. The chattel mortgage, which appears to have given rise to the injurious impression about the firm is, we are assured, half paid off. Our correspondent adds that "they are respectable and hard-working people," and we have never doubted it; our information was to the effect that they were in some embarrassment. We had no desire to injure the firm, and hope we have not done so; on the contrary, it is very agreeable to us to receive their own assurance, confirmed by our correspondent, that they are solvent and getting ahead.

MANY persons will regret to hear of the suspension of Messrs. Staunton & Co., manufacturers of wall paper in this city. The business has been conducted here for over thirty years, and heretofore in a very satisfactory manner. Some years ago a combination of wall-paper makers was formed in the United States, and since that broke up, prices have been demoralized, especially in Canada. Quite a number of American firms in this line have made this country a slaughter market, actually selling goods at less than the cost of production at

home. Some time ago the Government appears to have facilitated this foreign trade by lowering the tariff upon the higher grades of paper, which are decidedly the most profitable. Under these circumstances, and in view of the fact that Messrs. Staunton owe something over \$50,000, they have wisely decided upon a consultation with their creditors, which are chiefly in New York, Montreal, and Toronto, on Friday next. We shall be glad to hear that an arrangement will be made to permit the firm to continue their business.

FACTORY NOTES.

Down in the bowels of the great Calumet and Hecla mine, in Houghton county, Michigan, there works to-day, as for twenty years past, a Swede, now grown old, by the name of Peder Olsen. Peder has always been of a saving turn of mind, and all his pennies have been invested in Calumet and Hecla stocks, of which to-day he owns and has paid for 300 shares—worth nearly \$100,000 to-day, and yielding \$6,000 annually in dividends. But Peder still continues to earn his daily pittance at hard toil.—*Bulletin of the Iron and Steel Association.*

It is remarkable how scrap iron accumulates. In some of the old towns and villages on the coast of the Maritime Provinces, from scores to hundreds of tons have long lain rusting, unused, until of late search has been made for such goods. Now, even in the far North-West, buyers are looking up scrap iron for shipment to San Francisco. The Vancouver World tells how, a week or two ago, the first large shipment was ready to be loaded upon the vessels for that city. The "Umatilla" had 300 tons ready for her last trip, and now before the arrival of the next steamer about twice as much will be ready for shipment. The most of it comes from the various carshops along the line of the C. P. R.

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