

port it, and careful handling, a very effective defence. We are also inclined to put more trust in appeals than we ever did before. There are judges and judges; they are not equally learned and sagacious, nor do they all take equal pains to get at the facts. The present system of awarding costs and taxing them is, we believe, a delusion and a snare. There is no publisher who has had a libel suit but will concur in this opinion. What will be thought of not allowing a successful litigant the costs of serving suit papers by mail, instead of through Toronto agents, the latter process being double the expense of the former? This is only a single instance of many that might be given of this precious system of taxation. True, a party can appeal, but an appeal against a man of straw is useless. If, with some reasonable protection for the client, the whole system, with its dry-as-dust rules and precedents, were abolished, and some common sense procedure introduced, the results would be far more satisfactory. What is called the "discretion" of the taxing officer is too often his caprice; it is a first-class professional trap from which there is little or no chance of escape. "Judicial discretion," we are told, is one of those profound phrases of the courts which the most skilled practitioner has never yet fathomed, and probably never will.

But we are done with our narrative of a libel suit, which should never have been commenced, which has been vexatious to the last degree, and the moral lessons of which our readers may draw for themselves. There is, however, one lesson for the seeker after law that may be learnt from this little story. It may be put in the form of Punch's advice to those intent on matrimony—"Don't." The Monetary Times is always ready to right any wrong that may be done any person in its columns, but it is not going to be held up by the mere libel-monger. He is usually after money and not justice, and to him the publishers of this journal will extend no quarter.

#### INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES.

We learn that an order was received by cable recently by the Robb Engineering Co., of Amherst, N. S., from their English representatives, Messrs. Dick, Kerr & Co., for two 250 horse-power engines for the Grimsby and Cleethorpes Electric tramways. The same engineering company is building two 300 horse-power tandem compound engines for the Demerara Electric company, Georgetown, British Guiana.

One night last week the tallest chimney in Hamilton, and the second largest in Canada, collapsed, shaking the ground for blocks around. It was being erected for the Hoepfner refinery, and was to have been handed over this week. The contractor was Mr. George W. Webb. The structure was 200 feet above the earth, and had a foundation of concrete and stone 20 feet deep and over 45 feet square. The chimney was 40 feet square at the base, and tapered to about 18 feet across at the top, on which there was half a cord of stone as a cap. The walls were six feet thick at the bottom, and two feet thick at the top. There were about 1,100,000 bricks in the chimney. The loss is put at about \$10,000.

The opening of the asbestos mines at Black Lake is under contemplation, the Canadian Asbestos company having acquired the property.

It is some time since two of the proprietors of the Perth Woolen Mills in East Ontario, Hon. John Haggart and Mr. T. A. Cole, decided to engage in the manufacture of felt, and they proceeded to enlarge the mill and install felt making machinery. The manufactured article embraces all grades of felt from the delicate shades and textures used by ladies in making fancy table drapes, etc., to the thick stock utilized in piano factories. The process is a simple one, and yet the machinery required is extensive and costly. Still there appears to be room for it in Canada, for we are not aware of any such concern in our midst. At the present time the machinery is working steadily on a large order of padding felt, a material used by tailors; but felt for rubber and overshoe linings, felt used in making refrigerator cars, felt for caps, beavers and meltons, felt for heavy shantyman's socks will be manufactured. In having the machinery put up expert mechanics were brought from the United States at first, but men were found in Perth who could and did, complete the work.

The company formed to manufacture duck in Hamilton expects to have its premises ready for work by September. It has elected officers as follows: J. M. Young, president; W. D. Long, vice-president; C. T. Grantham, manager and secretary; and these and John Knox, Hamilton; C. Kloefer, M.P., Guelph; J. Kendry, M.P., Peterboro, and T. P. Coffee, of the Trust and Guarantee Company, Toronto, are directors. The name of the organization is the Imperial Cotton Company.

An extensive premises is that of the Walkerville Match Company, limited, which has just been incorporated with a capital of \$100,000. The main portion is of three stories, 60 feet by 185. A two-story wing 80 by 80 adjoins the building, and a store-room in rear of it. Swedish machinery has been purchased for match-making, and it is understood to be the best in the world. There are 28 machines, and the staff at the opening last week included 150 hands, so that the business is likely to be a large one. The practical man is Mr. C. J. Anderson, who learned his business in Europe, and was head chemist in the Diamond Match Company for a number of years. The directors chosen are: C. J. Anderson, of Detroit, president and general manager; Alf. Lovet McGregor, vice-president; Peter Stenius, secretary; Geo. Everson, Alex. Carlson, Detroit; Chas. Baxter, Windsor, and H. D. Metcalfe, Montreal and Winnipeg.

It was stated a fortnight ago by the Nelson Miner that the Hall Mines Company, limited, was undergoing reconstruction. We have since learned that the shareholders have been asked to put up five shillings per share, from which £75,000 is expected to be raised. This sum would suffice to pay off existing indebtedness and leave say \$100,000 to get the Silver King mine, the property of the company, producing well, which would take time. Meanwhile it is believed that the company's smelter at Nelson can be advantageously run on lead ores. Mr. Croasdaile has not yet returned from England, but is expected shortly. It is of much importance to the Nelson district that these extensive works shall be reopened, and this is likely to take place in about two months. The settlement of the labor troubles in the Slocan district gives promise of much activity during the coming summer.

#### HARDWARE AND METAL NEWS.

The much criticized juggling with prices in the American wire and nail trade has had a disturbing effect on trade in Canada and nobody is disposed to buy largely at present. No change has yet been made in the Montreal quotations in these lines, but a meeting of the nail manufacturers is to be held there to-day to consider the situation, and some lowering of prices is deemed not improbable, more particularly to points affected by American competition.

The spring weather has brought a good demand for linseed oil, though there is a curious divergence in the value of it, according to Montreal and Ontario holders of it respectively. While Montreal houses were asking 73 and 76 cents per gallon, respectively, for jobbing lots of raw and boiled, some western houses were reported selling at 68 and 70 cents. The London quotation is now £28 10s. the ton.

Regarding the present remarkable demand for copper, an American authority is quoted in The Mining and Metallurgical Journal as saying: "The consumption of copper in this country, as well as abroad, is phenomenal. As this is the electrical age, copper is being put to new uses every day, and the demand is naturally large. The product of the various mines throughout the country has been sold months ahead, but the demand appears to be as pronounced as ever it was. England is now in the market for a large amount of American copper, thousands of tons of it being required for war purposes. Germany and France are also buying liberally. The demand from the latter country can be traced to the construction of telephone systems in the various countries. Germany needs it for traction and manufacturing purposes. It is estimated that one-third of the entire copper production of America is now being exported."

H. Epstein was refused a pedlar's license by the authorities of Nelson, B.C., and has entered suit for damages. He thinks he lost \$1,000 by not being allowed to sell his jewelry. We are not familiar with the municipal regulations of Nelson, but it may be that Mr. Epstein is going to stand upon some rights that he considers himself to have at common law.