

front of those little necessary adornments of the parlour—bronze.

Dr. Gross, in his work on the discoveries of recent date, in the submerged Swiss village, traces the use of bronze implements to the period immediately following the Stone Age; but rude as they then were, he found in the different eras of time great improvement in their manufacture. This metal then, from the earliest known period, has been of the useful as well as ornamental kind, and it is still likely to hold its place. Both in England and in the United States are manufactured inkstands, racks, safe bells, &c., but at present we will not particularize.

NATURAL PHOTOGRAPHY.—Some of the English papers are commenting on the successful completion of an indication rather than invention of a process by which photographs are taken in their natural colors—in fact life-like—with scenery coloured as existing at the moment. This, when tried, a few years back, was indifferently done, but a Parisian is said to have overcome the difficulty. If so an entire revolution in photographic processes must follow, and perfection reached at last.

BUSINESS.

There isn't any business. July with August are the "off" months in almost every line; Books, Stationery and Fancy Goods are no exceptions. Even the ever-active traveller is taking his ease wherever he can find a cosy nook, we know he is a very quiet and unobtrusive individual. The only branch that is active is Book Binding. As a rule all the Book Binders are busy, some working overtime. Money is said by some not to be paid very promptly, while others report that for the past two months collections have been exceptionally good. On the whole payments are better than this time last year.

We notice that Mr. W. J. Gage has left Toronto on a tour of inspection of the Saskatchewan Homestead Company's property in the North-west, of which Company he is a Director. The proposed tour is to be a thorough examination of both wild lands and settlements.

In the United States, desiring to follow the example of enlightened Canada, they are agitating the question of free postage on newspapers.

THE OUTLOOK.

The outlook for the grain crops continues to improve as the season advances. From all quarters, and concerning all, the reports are full of encouragement.

Never did our wide area of farming country present a better appearance than it does this July. Perhaps cotton has suffered a set back on account of too abundant rains, but in general the conditions are altogether favourable to vegetable growth. There has been a happy succession of sun and rain, and the fields were never richer and healthier than they are now.

Winter wheat has passed through its period of doubt and trial and an abundant crop is assured—a crop which is likely to exceed in the aggregate any ever before produced in this country, with one exception. The great spring wheat region in the North-west promises a yield larger than any in the past, for the average condition of the crop is high and the area has been increased. Oats, rye and barley are also advancing to the satisfaction of the farmer.

The people, therefore, have good reason to expect a continuance of low prices for food, and at such prices we shall be able to export our surplus. If the farmers get less per bushel for their grain, they will have more to sell and to feed to their stock. Wheat at 80 cents a bushel, so long as we have enough to dispose of at the price, is not the terrible calamity the prophets of evil have been predicting. Moreover, if we must meet increased competition in foreign markets we have at home a market which is the best in the world, and one which is rapidly becoming greater.

It is, therefore, probable that as soon as the abundant harvest is made a certainty we shall begin to see a revival of trade. The improvement may be slow but it will be all the healthier for that.—*Canadian Agriculturist.*

Novelties.

NOVELTIES.—A letter for making remittances with a blank receipt added, has been issued by the Acme State Co. of New York. The receipt tears off at the perforated line, and is certainly handy to the receiver, and also to the sender as it enables him to keep his receipts uniform.

We are told of a Ruling Machine just introduced in the United States, which rules both sides of the paper—counts the sheets, strikes a gong at the finish of every ream and registers the number. It is a great labour saver.

HISTORICAL WALL PICTURES.—Mr. T. Rudiman Johnston, of Edinburgh, has just brought out a series of six historical pictures, reproduced in colours by photo-lithography, from celebrated engravings after Vertue, Mortimer, West, and others. The subjects are the Death of Nelson, the Signing of Magna Charta, Queen Elizabeth and her Court, the Battle of the Boyne, Cromwell Dissolving the Long Parliament, and the Landing of Charles II. They are mounted on extra thick millboard, the faces are varnished, and they are provided with strong tapes for hanging up. On the back will be found a lengthy description of the event depicted in the engraving. The pictures are just such as will interest children, and help to fix in their minds certain historical landmarks which cannot fail to aid the teacher.

Goldsmith's immortal tale has been published in Liverpool at the price of 1d. It is said to be hand-