

about the following figures: White pine, Ottawa rafts, 57 feet average, 23 cents; the same, Lake Nipissing, 54 feet average, 25½ cents; common white pine, 43 feet average, 18 cents; Michigan wany, 21 to 21½ inch average 36 to 37 cents; oak (Michigan) 65 feet average, 47 to 48 cents. As shown by the circular of J. Bell Forsyth & Co., already published in these columns, nearly all lines have passed from the hands of manufacturers to the shippers, with the exception of white pine timber which is nearly all Ottawa product. Of this fully three-fourths is still in the hands of makers, and loss must result to somebody on the disposal of this stock, which it is now impossible to sell in Europe even though business there were in a much better condition. It is difficult to understand why the Ottawa people are again in the woods getting out more square timber in the face of the foregoing state of affairs. Some mitigation there may be, perhaps, in the fact that only 1½ million cubic feet are to be got out, and that, as far as possible, will be of a select character, choosing the best trees for the purpose.

(To be continued.)

GREY COTTONS.—Much has been written of late concerning the doings of those directly interested in the manufacture of grey cottons in Canada. The chief point of the proposed compact lies in a division of operations, by which the mills latterly not running upon greys agree to confine themselves to their present class of goods, and the manufacturers of greys pledge themselves in return not to resume the manufacture of other varieties. As the present output of greys is about equal to the consumptive demand of the country, it is hoped that there may be no further cutting of prices, and that the mills may get back a dollar and a few cents more for every dollar they expend. Goods are still being retailed at remarkably low prices. Shopkeepers in Hamilton advertise yard wide greys at 44 cents a yard.

LOOKING FOR BONUSES.—Several of our Maritime exchanges are devoting much attention to the projected enterprise of one Wm. Vanstooten, who proposes to organize a company with the ostensible object of opening up the iron mining industry of the island of Cape Breton. The scheme, as appears by the proceedings of the municipal council is as follows: "The amount of money which Vanstooten estimates will be spent by the company in furnaces, mills, and railroads and numerous equipments in connection with the contemplated scheme is one millions dollars, in addition to sums that will be paid out to fifteen hundred people whom it is proposed to employ in the carrying out of the enterprise. Last week Vanstooten petitioned the municipal council of Sydney that certain concessions with guarantees be granted him and his assignee to enable him to form a company for the purpose of mining iron ore in the county of Cape Breton and erecting smelting furnaces

and rolling mills on Sydney river. After considering the matter the council decided to exempt such company from the payment of all taxes within the municipality for twenty-five years; that five per cent. interest be guaranteed by the municipality upon \$100,000 mortgage bonds for a period of twenty-five years, upon condition that the company shall have laid out and expended \$200,000 in the development of the iron industry of the county, and that the council shall have the right to investigate the vouchers and accounts of such expenditure; also, that all these privileges, concessions and guarantees shall become inoperative, null and of no effect whatever on the 1st day of January, 1888, unless the company shall expend the \$200,000, exclusive of any and all sums guaranteed by the Provincial Legislature or government, and that in the event of the Provincial Legislature giving its guarantee to bonds in promotion of the iron interests of the island of Cape Breton, the company shall be allowed to issue mortgage bonds with the municipal five per cent. guarantee of interest in a similar manner to those guaranteed by the Provincial Legislature. The council further endorses the application of Vanstooten to the Provincial Legislature for a guarantee of five per cent. upon \$300,000 for twenty-five years additional, and the representatives of the island were requested to endorse the same." It was also resolved that the Dominion representatives from the county be asked to obtain a rebate or remission of all tariff duties on all machinery and plant entering into the construction of the company's works. Our Cape Breton friends are doubtless taking sufficient precautions, as they cannot have quite forgotten the Steinhardt's and their doings in Brockville, Simcoe, Chatham and other places in Ontario in 1879.

THE FAWCETT FIASCO.—At a meeting of the investigation committee of the unfortunate Fawcett Banking Co., held at Watford, the 23d inst., the chairman, Mr. B. Graham, M.P.P., said the books had gone, and he was not afraid to say that he believed Mr. Fawcett or an accomplice had taken them. He said there were many things that wanted accounting for, one of which bore very much the appearance of fraud, and amounted to about \$1,000. Mr. Kirkpatrick, the accountant, stated that the information needed, which he had been unable to get from Mr. Fawcett, was respecting sundry checks and amounts drawn in cash; what became of funds raised on a farm mortgaged; also how the stock in the Bank of London was disposed of, which was paid for; his North-West real estate and other investments, and how he disposed of his interest in the various branches with which he was at one time connected, about fifteen in all. After the financial statement was read and discussed it was decided to postpone further action. The whereabouts of Mr. Fawcett is unknown.

THE BUSINESS WORLD is barely through with discussing the failure of Oliver Bros. & Phillips at Pittsburg when a similar piece of news is heard from Galveston, Texas, the Island City Bank being "closed on account of the death of President Wells" through suicide. The bank is badly embarrassed, and the directors have issued a card purporting that the assets will realize 70 cents on the dollar. The depositors number over two thousand, principally of the very poorest class. The large cotton factors Wolston, Wells & Vidor were involved, and have suspended with liabilities of over \$300,000 and assets twenty to thirty thousand. They have overdrawn their account with the bank 150,000.

THE COOKE INSOLVENCY.

The difficulty in pursuing and punishing fraud, even when discovered, is amply exemplified in the case of Henry Penman Cooke, a storekeeper of Gravenhurst, who commenced business in 1882 under fair auspices, and who might have succeeded if his greed for gain had not overtopped his honesty. After a year's trading his store caught fire one night in a most mysterious way, and Cooke was arrested for arson, but managed to get free. His creditors became apprehensive and called for explanations as to his affairs, which, after much negotiation, resulted in a compromise being arranged at 60c in the \$, 20 per cent cash, and the estate to remain in the hands of the creditors' trustee, Mr. E. R. G. Clarkson, until the balance was paid. Default having been made in this agreement, preparations were made to sell the assets and close the estate, when it was discovered that large quantities of goods, money and notes had disappeared. The services of a detective were engaged, and after much labor goods to the value of some \$4,000 were discovered secreted at Huntsville and recovered. Cooke was arrested for fraudulently concealing these goods, and also for stealing some small articles out of the stock after Mr. Clarkson had taken charge of his estate. On the latter charge Cooke was sent to jail and on his release was again arraigned for the first offence, but was acquitted because there was no executions against him at the time this offence was committed. At the time the 20 per cent of the compromise was paid, a portion of it was composed of a chattel mortgage upon the effects of a farmer named Merkeley, of the township of Ryde. In taking this mortgage over, the trustee procured from Cooke an affidavit that the sum alleged to be due under it was correctly stated, and the trustee then demanded payment from Merkeley, who denied liability, but offered no proof of payment. After using every persuasion to get the money, without effect, the chattels were sold. This was eighteen months ago. Merkeley kept quiet until Cooke was out of the country, and then brought suit to recover damages for illegal conversion. At the trial last summer he swore he had paid Cooke the money, though he had taken no receipt, and he brought witnesses to corroborate the payment and so succeeded in compelling the trustee to pay him some \$600.

Cooke's wife also brought suit to recover damages for wrongful conversion by the trustee in seizing some chattels which she claimed as her own. She swore to the claim, so did her sister, her father, and others, and the trustee again had to pay \$900.

Another portion of the 20 per cent payment made by Cooke on his composition was \$2,500 advanced by his father-in-law. When Cooke was arrested it turned out that the largest portion of this amount was money brought down by Cooke from Gravenhurst when he came to explain matters to his creditors, to win their sympathies and get a settlement, and that he had handed it to his father-in-law as well as notes to the nominal value of \$3,200. The trustee, though sick of law by this time, brought an action, through the solicitors for the estate, Parkes and McAdams, of Hamilton, to recover these notes, and succeeded in getting a verdict about six months ago, but the defendant obtained an order for a new trial, and the case was brought on at the present January Assizes, resulting again in a verdict for the trustee. The defendant was in the witness-box for eleven hours, and the examination provoked a great deal of interest. There is much to comment upon in all this. The creditors knew Cooke was a rogue when the fire occurred. They were advised of it by the solicitors of the estate, and they should have steadily refused to settle with him on any basis less than 100 cents. The consideration that the attempt to punish him would cost a great deal of time and expense should have no weight with them. To smile at fraud in this way and settle because it paid best to make the creditors assume a very undignified place, is in short, conniving at wrong-doing, and has a direct tendency to relax the tone of