WE have a lengthy communication from Messrs. John Silver & Co., of Halifax, N. S. complaining of our remarks about their suit against the Dominion Telegraph Company, in which \$7,000 damages had been awarded them by the jury. What is objected to, is that we referred to the case as one peculiarly calculated to enlist the sympathies of a jury, and that we prophesied that the real question of the defendants' liability might have yet to be fought out before the court. The details of the evidence given at the trial were not within our reach when the comments were made, but certainly the plaintiffs very forcible way of setting forth the injury done them, and the summary of evidence they send, strengthen us in the opinion that the case is peculiarly one to enlist the sympathies of a jury. As to the other point, the experience of the plaintiffs in this suit wil differ much from that of most litigants who endeavor to fasten a liability for damages for libel on a strong corporation, if they do not find the gauntlet they must run in reference to points raised by the defence, involving the question of the company's legal liability, for the injury complained of; a much more serious matter than the ordeal of a jury trial. We heartily concur in the view that telegraph companies which recklessly transmit untrue and injurious intelligence, should be made answerable for the damages caused thereby. The question is whether the present law is able to reach them. If not, the remedy must come from the legisla-

—We regret to be unable this week to make room for a more extended notice of the lecture, delivered on Monday last in this city, by Mr. Thomas Galbraith, upon trade, money, and banking. The central idea of Mr. Galbraith's address appears to be expressed in the question: "Why not establish a Bank of Issue, dealing solely in mortgages, and thus double the active capital of Canada? * * * All the business of the country is transacted, its personal and real property handled, by the capital only of the personal property."

—The committee to investigate the Banque Ville Marie's affairs report in favor of liquidation; we have not space to-day for extended remark.

DRAWING AS THE LANGUAGE OF MECHANICS.

Few persons, if any, who can hold pen or pencil are totally devoid of the power of drawing. The delineations may be rude as the "picture letters" of a red Indian, but they will convey, more or less perfectly, the meaning of the draughtsman.

Our purpose is to speak of those who can draw with tolerable accuracy so far as making the hand obey the eye, but who, for want of training, often fail utterly to make such drawings subserve their aims. We are not now speaking of drawing as an artistic accomplishment, but in the sense indicated by the title of this article. A mechanical drawing is the most efficient, often the only efficient, mode of describing the construction of a piece of mechanism. To do this

effectually the drawing must follow certain fixed rules. Just as a collection of words strung together in defiance of syntax are but jargon, not language, so any attempt at a mechanical drawing which does not observe the conventional rules of the art is more or less meaningless. A man may make a drawing faultless in every line and curve, nay, even beautifully shaded and coloured, and yet convey scarcely any meaning, while another will, by a few lines, show all that a good workman needs to enable him to make the article intended to be described. In mechanical drawings correct sections are of all things the most important, and of all things the least ofren met with, except from the hands of trained experts. It may be said, "How can any but trained experts be expected to make correct mechanical drawings?" The answer is, that time back, when a man wanted any writing done he had to apply to a public scribe; but that man who now-a-days could not write an ordinary letter would be thought little of. often do tradesmen, when writing to a merchant or a manufacturer, need to describe their wants by something more than words? And in how man cases are they able to sketch correctly what they require? No knowledge that a man could possess would be found of greater utility than a power of making a good sketch of anything which words failed to fully describe.

We are not advocating that everyone should expect to become an adept in the more difficult branches of mechanical drawing; but we do consider that more attention should be paid to educating young men in the rudiments of this useful art. Everyone might be taught how to show a section of any ordinary article of simple construction. And, further, the exact meaning and value of sections to the artificer might be profiably pointed out. If, also, a general appreciation of the value and convenience of what are know as "section papers" was brought about, great benefit would ensue. The publication of a simple series of examples of mechanical drawing, having strictly in view what we have pointed out, would do much good. All the existing handbooks go too far, and are fit rather for the engineering pupil than the general man of business.—Hardware Trade Journal.

BARLEY IN OSWEGO.—The receipts of barley from Canada at Oswego during the week ending Dec. 6th have been 187,980 bushels which about closed the receipts for this season. The receipts of new crop barley from Canada have been 3,807,312 bushels against:—

Date.	bushels.
1875	3,695,835
1870	3.014.732
1877	3.803.384
1878	2,837,497

Compared with the receipts in 1878 the increase this season is 969.815 bushels or 25 per cent. The stock of Canadian and state barley in store at Oswego is over 730,000 bush. Which is less than the supply in store a year ago. The last barley boat from Oswego arrived at tide water. The shipments of new crop barley from Oswego to 6th inst. aggregated 3,204,281 bush., of which 2,641,426 went by canal to tide water. The receipts of new crop at New York Ocbober 1st to December 5th 3.444,857 bush. Receipts at Chicago, Milwaukee, Detroit, Toledo and Cleveland from Jan. 1st to Nov. 30th 1879 were 8,356,405 bushels in 1879; 8,772,692 bushels in 1878, and 6,006,325 bushels in 1877.

The Agricultural department at Washington estimates the barley crop of the United States for the present year at 40,184,000 bushels which is a decrease of 4.3 per cent. from the product of 1878. The following table shows the acrerage and yield of barley in the United States for the past eight years:

Year.	Acreage sown	Crop in bush
1871	1,177,666	26,718,500
1872	I,307.082	26,486,400
1873	1,387,10б	32,044,491
1874	1,580,626	32,552,500
1875	····· 1,789,902	36,908,600
1876	1,766,511	38,710,500
1877	1,614,654	34,441,400
1878	1,790,400	42,245,630

THE United States Mint Director, in his annual report, estimates the total production of precious metals during the year 1879 in that country as follows:—

Nevada Colorado California Utah Montana Arizona Dakota Idaho. Oregon	Gold. \$9,000,000 3,225,000 17,600,000 575,000 2,500,000 800,000 2,420,000 1,200,000	Silver. \$13,500,000 11,750,000 2,400,000 6,250,000 2,225,000 3,350,000 10,000 650,000
Oregon	1, 50,000 125,000	20,000
Michigan Other sources	780,000 305,000	67,000
Total	\$38,900,000	\$40,812,000

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Bryce, McMurrich & Co

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Low Priced Costume Cloth.

Three Cases Haber-dashery.

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Have commenced their great semiannual stock-taking sale.

G.B.S. & H. have made it a cardinal principle in their business to select their customers from among those merchants who have a reputation for prompt paying, and to give them goods at less than current prices, and to drop them when they get slow pay. The result of this system has been to draw around them the merchants who sell largely for cash, while the long-credit ones naturally drift away; but it is evidently the cash trades that respond most promptly to the touch of better times for the business of G.B.S & H., which is supported principally by merchants doing cash trades, has increased this fall fully 33 per cent. over last fall.

SN.B.—Special drives in all kinds of Dress Stuffs.