

too, are the mucilage-making department and the packing room. On the first floor is kept a large stock of printing and other papers, besides a suite of three offices, well lighted from the street, and separated from the ware room by glass partitions. The stationery department is a handsome flat, spacious and undivided, with uniform shelving. The bindery is next reached: a very complete place for the purpose, with abundance of light and with an array of the most modern machinery. Here are a few of the appliances: 6 ruling machines, 3 cutting machines, 2 perforating machines, 3 paging machines, a wire sewer, a wire stitcher, eyelettering machines, a skiving machine, a cardboard cutter, a stamping machine and blocking presses. A labor-saver is in the shape of a patent revolving gilding-press, the invention of the patentee, Mr. Thos Freeman, the foreman of the bindery. Next we reach the box-making department, thronged with girls and young women, turning out a great number and variety of paper boxes for confectioners, furriers, corset-makers, tack-makers, druggists etc. etc. In this flat the nimble fingers of the operatives are supplemented by scoring, cutting and chamfering machines, which make "mince-meat" of great quantities of pasteboard and paper. At the top of the house, in the envelope factory of the Co., is the greatest novelty of all, nine of the Reliance Envelope Machines, patented by Mr. L. T. Bouvier, who has long been a trusted foreman of the company. These are marvels of delicate and rapid manipulation. In this busy place are 150 hands, and outside of it 50 or 60 more, who are all engaged in the various departments of binding, box-making, and envelope manufacture. The Company has every facility for doing a large business and doing it well.

Another warning to flour millers may be found in the dust explosion which took place last month at Council Bluffs, Iowa, in the Crystal Mills. The flour hopper or packer was being swept and cleaned, after which an ordinary lantern was introduced to find out whether the work was thorough, when an explosion took place, blowing out the side of the hopper towards the centre of the mill, wrecking the heavy brick walls from the roof to the floor of the third story, blowing off the roof of the cupola, and doing damage to the extent of \$1,000. Luckily, the flames were subdued.

The Victoria School of Art and Design at Halifax, instituted mainly to give mechanics and artisans training in architectural drawing and mechanical designing, was opened some days ago in the Union Bank building in that city, while a commodious suite of rooms has been engaged and a competent staff of artists is employed as teachers. The City of Halifax gave \$3,000 out of the Queen's Jubilee Fund, and the government of the province donates \$800 per annum to aid the school. Out of 130 pupils attending the various classes some forty are young mechanics; and the great majority of the pupils intend using the advantages of the school as a means of livelihood.

Canadian balsam pine is said to be the proper thing for the manufacture of violins. The excellence of the old Italian violins in past centuries did not alone consist in superior workmanship, but mostly in the use of a certain kind of wood similar to our Canadian balsam pine. This kind of wood in Europe, especially in Italy, has for a length of time been exhausted. The *Gazette* learned from Mr. H. Lemoke, the German-American author, now in Montreal, that only very lately

Professor Schradick, from Leipzig, now in Cincinnati engaged at the conservatory, has met with unprecedented success with violins built from the Canadian balsam pine. Hence is predicted a demand from Germany for this wood for violin-making.

—For nearly twenty years, statistics of the lumber shipments from the River St. Lawrence to the River Plate have been collated by the Export Lumber Company. By 1873 the aggregate of these exports had reached 36,000,000 feet; then they dwindled till in 1876 they were only one-tenth that quantity. Year by year thereafter increase was made till 1882, when the quantity reached 24,419,000. The next four years' exports were, respectively, 18,768,000, 36,938,000, 1,344,000 and 29,088,000 feet. During 1887, from June 15th to November 12th, forty-one vessels laden with 25,879,330 feet of pine lumber and 204,992 pieces small stowage, were despatched by the export company from Montreal. And from May 20th to November 6th there were 15 vessels sent from other St. Lawrence ports, with 7,719,058 feet spruce and 167,220 palings. The aggregate for last year is thus 33,598,388 feet of spruce and pine with 372,212 pieces small stowage. Some of the vessels, such as the "Lizzie C. Troop" and the "Kate Maguire," carried over a million feet.

—Our Montreal correspondent, writing on the 23rd inst., has this to say on the subject of dry goods: "A commendable degree of prudence has qualified the buying of dry goods abroad during the past year. Wholesale houses now have their buyers all on the other side of the Atlantic, and their instructions to them are to continue a like conservative policy in selection of spring goods. There is nothing new as regards prices of cottons: domestic manufactures are all steady, and the threatened cut in cotton bags alluded to a couple of weeks ago has been averted. The Montreal Cotton Company has declared a quarterly dividend of two per cent. payable next month. In regard to the alleged plethora of manufactured goods held by the Canada Cotton Company, I am informed on good authority, that while it is true there is a large quantity of goods in their mill, they are nevertheless virtually sold, being manufactured on order, and subject to delivery as per agreement, according to the needs of the houses ordering the same."

—The past week has been an exciting one on the Toronto Stock Exchange. The suspension of the Central Bank naturally unsettled the market, and, with many rumors in circulation, the course of prices was at times feverish. After the first excitement a reaction for the better occurred; but, later on, values gradually fell away. Transactions in bank shares were confined to Federal, Commerce and Toronto, the last mentioned selling at 190. Federal dropped from 91½ to 89½, rose to 92, and closed at 91. In Commerce the dealings were at 116 and 115½, closing rather easier. Insurance shares were steady. British America was not dealt in at all but Western was quite active at from 123 to 122½, with the last sale at 122½. The strength of Canada North-West Land surprised "the street." The good character of the buying and reports of improvements in the company's business frightened the "shorts" and an advance of 3/4 a share was established. Much better inquiry is noticeable for shares in the loan societies, though rates are in favor of buyers. The monetary stringency may be said to have re-

laxed a little, as money is not wanted to pay for stocks in many cases till the 1st proximo. Rates however are firm at about 7% on call.

—The manager, for nine years past, of the Bank of Toronto branch at Port Hope, Mr. W. R. Wadsworth, has been promoted to the charge of the London branch. Mr. J. Milloy, previously accountant of the same bank, in Montreal, has been sent to take charge of the Port Hope branch, as acting manager.

—We learn from the *Chignecto Post* that Mr. H. F. McDougall, manager of the Merchants' Bank of Halifax branch at Sackville, N. B., takes over the management of the Dochester branch also, which will hereafter be a sub-agency of Sackville. Mr. Racey, the agent, has been removed to the Bathurst branch.

—The Canadian Bank of Commerce opened last week, a branch at North Toronto, in premises once occupied by the Central Bank; one at the East end of the city, also in the former Central Bank premises, and one on College Street beyond Spadina, under the charge of Mr. R. C. McHarrie. These local branches have been established by the authorities of the bank with a view to the accommodation of parties whose homes or whose places of business may be far from the business centre of Toronto. A savings' bank department will be opened at the new branches so as to furnish convenient safety for workmen and others.

—A meeting of the principal shareholders of La Banque Nationale was held in one of the large halls of the Seminary, at Quebec. It was decided to request the directors to submit to the shareholders a detailed report of the business of the bank, in order that those interested may decide if they should make any reduction on the capital stock. Later, the proposal to reduce capital stock while continuing the present directorate, was refused by leading shareholders, who demanded a thorough change in the management. Hence on Monday last, Hon. Mr. Thibaudeau, president, and Garneau and Tessier, two of the directors, resigned. They have been replaced by Mr. T. Ledroit as president, and Messrs. A. Bilodeau and F. Painchaud as directors. The last named gentleman was also appointed managing director at a salary. The board also decided to ask Parliament next session for a reduction of the capital stock by twenty-five per cent.

—No large ocean-going steamer had ever gone far into the Bay of Fundy until the s.s. "Belair" ventured as far as Kingsport N.S., on the Basin of Minas, for a shipment of apples. The "Belair" took in 5,000 barrels, and finished loading at Annapolis, and thus effected a large saving in railway freights. The practicability of large steamers navigating the Bay of Fundy above St. John and Annapolis has thus been demonstrated, and shippers on the bay shore of Nova Scotia see in this successful shipment possibilities of a large business in the near future.

—When the Cable steamer "Britannia" was engaged in taking up and relaying the cable between Torbay and Rye Beach, the Cunard steamer "Pavonia" hove in sight and sent a message to Boston, to which port she was bound. This is the first instance of