

endowed with more than mere personal attractions. He had great natural abilities and presence of mind. Catherine bestowed upon Potemkin for his services, both military and diplomatic, the surname of Taurisschesky. [This name was taken from the Kersonesus Taurica, (Crimea,) which was added by Potemkin to the Russian Empire.] It was at this time he received from Catherine a magnificent palace called (conformably to this name) the Taurin, together with the diamond now known as the Eugenie. The Emperor Napoleon III., on the occasion of his wedding, bought this stone from a grand-niece of Potemkin, the Princess Colorado (who was, at the same time, the heiress of all the jewels belonging to the Russian Prince,) and gave it to his wife.

"The Empress of the French renamed the stone Eugenie, and it is from her majesty's own lips that we received our information. During the whole of her reign the Empress wore this gem as a centre stone of a diamond necklace, which, after the Franco-German war, was sold to the notorious Gaikwar of Baroda for a lac and a half of rupees, (£15,000.) This was the man who attempted to destroy the British Resident, Col. Phayre, by administering diamond powder to him, for which he was tried by a jury of three Englishmen and three natives. He was defended by Sergeant Ballantyne. The judges could not agree, and the Gaikwar was discharged. He was, however, after the trial deposed for his misgovernment, and since then the Eugenie, together with many other large diamonds purchased by him, have disappeared. He is supposed to have hidden them away, in the hope of raising money on them for the purpose of an attempt to recover his possessions."

BUSINESS CHANGES FOR DECEMBER

W. J. Reid & Co., Wholesale Crockery and Plated Ware, dissolved, N. & W. J. Reid continue under the old style; C. F. Smith & Co., Belleville, Ont., Hardware, damaged by fire; W. A. Boughner, Ridgetown, Ont., Hardware, has sold out and trying to compromise; A. J. Winchell, Tilsonburg, Jeweler, assigned in trust; J. L. Levy, Toronto, Jeweler, giving up business; T. J. Carroll & Co., Hamilton, Ont., Jobbing Jewelers, stock seized by customs' authorities; Dale & Kemp, Beeton, Ont., Hardware, called a meeting of their creditors; T. W. Gibbs, Oshawa, Ont., Hardware, sheriff in possession; Whetter & Lawrie, Forest, Ont., Hardware, dissolved, and A. Lawrie continues alone; Lee & Edsell, Bowmanville, Ont., Hardware, dissolved, Edsell continues alone.

BUSINESS NOTES.

CHRISTMAS TRADE has generally been good this season, and most of our friends throughout the country report good sales and fair prices. As usual those who bought for cash on hand, had an inside track on their competitors.

THE many friends of Mr. John Zimmerman throughout Canada, will regret to learn that he has been so ill for a month past as to be compelled to keep to his bed. We are glad to be able to say that he is now rapidly recovering from his illness, and his medical adviser expects that he will shortly be able to attend to his business as usual.

IN our November issue, by some oversight of our printer of course, a strange error crept into the advertisement of Hagstoz & Thorpe, manufacturers of the Boss Case. It was there stated that 15,000 of their cases had been sold to the public, whereas it should have read 150,000—just one little 0 left out, but it made a difference of 135,000 in the number of cases sold by the Company. As a matter of fact, these Boss gold stiffened cases are a "big thing" not only to the manufacturers themselves but to the man that buys them; and those who have used them say that they are first-class value for the money. We think them without doubt the best stiffened gold case in the world, and the immense sales made by the manufacturers in this country and Great Britain, seems to indicate pretty conclusively that the general public think so also.

IT seems that the Customs department are beginning to open their eyes to the fact that jewelry is extensively smuggled across the border, and in many places this is accomplished by regularly organized gangs got together for the purpose. The detectives have again succeeded in making a capture, this time at Sarnia, or rather Point Edward, the crossing point of the Grand Trunk Railway. About two weeks ago a well known American Doctor and an American Jeweler were caught by Customs detective, having in their possession over \$1,000 of jewelry. The jewelry was confiscated and the culprits fined \$200, and it is said that the end is not yet, but that other arrests are about to be made. We think some of these detectives might employ their time with equal profit farther east, as it is a well known fact that large quantities of smuggled goods are constantly being offered in Toronto at prices which defy competition from any honest dealer. If the department won't reduce the duty they should at least see that it is collected from all.

TALKING of Customs seizures, reminds us that it is only a few days ago since the Customs authorities seized the entire stock of a small jobbing jewelry firm in Hamilton, for smuggling goods, and as a consequence the firm has since suspended operations. Well we should say that if they could not do business honestly, the sooner they go by the board the better, and if the charge is fairly sustained, we trust that their creditors will allow no false delicacy to prevent them from putting the "coup de grace" to such a concern. "Honesty is the best policy" is an old adage and a true one, and if people will persistently run their heads into danger they must eventually expect to be caught. It is said that the detectives will after the examination of the firm's books

make a good many seizures amongst the dealers who purchased from this firm. If so it will serve as a point to illustrate our remarks in last number in reference to the danger retail dealers run in buying from small and irresponsible houses with small capital but a big reputation for selling cheap.

THE selection of some one standard meridian, so as to have the same minute and second simultaneously throughout the world, will become more inevitable as travel and communication increases. The clumsiness of the present system is evident when it is considered that in the United States alone there are seventy standards. The revolution will be gradual, but is sure to come sooner or later. On Thursday last, in the Section of Economical Science and Statistics, the President of the Section, Prof. E. B. Elliott, of Washington, read a paper on "International Standard Time," Mr. Sanford Fleming, C. E., in the chair. As to the selection of a standard meridian, he proposed Behring's Straits for two reasons—first, because the time differs but little from Greenwich, being but forty-four minutes faster than at the sub-meridian of Greenwich; and secondly, because the line for zero would be situated entirely in the water, and the inconvenience avoided of having it Monday to people living on one side and Tuesday to those on the other. As to numbering the meridian from the standard, twelve on the dial would mark midnight as well as noon, while on a 24 hour watch zero would mark midnight and twelve noon, the meridians moving as usual from west to east. According to this standard, dividing the 360° of the circumference of the earth by 24, the number of hours in a day meridian A 15° from zero would be first hour, meridian B 30° from zero the second hour, and so on. The American Congress has authorized the appointment of three commissioners to unite in an International Conference for the purpose of deciding on a common meridian.

WORKSHOP NOTES.

SILVERING COPPER AND BRASS.—Mix 3 parts of chloride of silver with 20 parts finely pulverized cream of tartar, and 15 parts culinary salt. Add water in sufficient quantity, and stir until the mixture forms a paste, with which cover the surface to be silvered by means of blotting paper. The surface is then rubbed with a rag and powdered lime, washed, and rubbed with a piece of soft cloth. The deposited film is extremely thin.

LEVER PALLETS.—The clear space between the pallets should correspond with the outside measure, on the points of three teeth of the scape wheel. The usual mode of measuring for new pallets is to set the wheel as close as possible to free itself when in motion. It can be arranged in the depthing tool, after which the measurement between the pivot holes of the two pieces, on the pillar plate, will show you exactly what is required.

GOLD DIALS.—In order to restore the color to a gold or gilt dial, dip it for a few seconds in the following mixture: Half an ounce of cyanide of potassium is dissolved in a quart of hot water, and two ounces of strong ammonia, mixed with half an ounce of spirits of wine, are