

last week, under the auspices of the Grange, it was decided to organize a joint stock company, with a capital of \$5,000, nearly \$1,200 of which was subscribed on the spot.

The work of building has been commenced on the dye house in connection with the Marysville Cotton Mill. The brick building which will be occupied as a store, instead of the wooden one now in use, is nearly finished. Both buildings are going up under Mr. Gibson's personal superintendence.

Before the opening of spring in 1887, says the *Philadelphia Record*, there will be between twenty and thirty new national organizations formed representing as many different lines of industry throughout the United States. The national organization of labor by individual crafts is one of the departures inaugurated at the last two National Conventions of the Knights of Labor. This departure has the deepest significance. Each craft will attend to its own affairs and perfect plans and establish rules for its own separate craft, but all will be subordinate to the General Assembly.

During the early days of this month important meetings of employers of labor in the United States, have been projected for the future calling together of employers for the purpose of organizing for mutual protective purposes. The combination of labor has become so powerful that employers feel no more time is to be lost, and many industries will be organized before the 1st of January. The objective point is not to antagonize labor, but to put themselves in a proper shape whereby they can deal more evenly with labor organizations.

Intelligence from New England manufacturing centres shows a liberal supply of orders for boots and shoes, cloth for winter and spring use, and for manufacturing products of a hundred varieties. The New England manufacturers are preparing to increase their capacities both by steam and water-power, and already contracts have been placed with builders of engines and machinery for the increase of steam power. This is especially true in the larger mills.

Natural gas is being used as an illuminant in Pennsylvania, under several patents. The same amount gives more light than artificial gas. Plants can be erected at a small cost.

Co-operative manufacturing companies are springing up all over the Northern States, backed by the Knights of Labor. The General Co-operative Board of St. Paul has appropriated \$40,000 to co-operative projects.

The cotton yarn mills of Utica are running night and day, and have orders enough for a year to come.

Six companies are piping gas to Pittsburg, having 107 wells. The lines are over 500 miles in length, and of this 232½ miles are in the city limits. The Philadelphia company owns 184 miles. In diameter the pipe runs from three to thirty inches. The lines are all connected. The maximum pressure in the city is thirteen pounds; in low pressure, however, it is only four or five ounces. The Philadelphia Company supplies 470 industrial establishments and about 5,000 dwellings, besides a large number of dwellings and industrial establishments outside of the city. It has a capital of \$7,500,000 and controls 54,000 acres of land.

The negro Knights of Labor across the border are trying to realize something of their connection with the Order. In parts of Arkansas and Texas they are asking \$3.50 per day for picking cotton. These are very extreme rates, but the planters have no immediate prospects for relief.

Delegates representing about 42,000 operatives engaged in the manufacture of boots and shoes, have formed an organization to be known as the Boot and Shoe Cutters' International Assembly of the United States and Canada. The objects of the assembly will be to establish, as far as practicable, a uniform rate of wages; to secure for both sexes equal pay for equal work; to perfect a system of apprenticeship that will protect the journeymen and deal exact justice to all interests concerned; to procure a gradual and practicable reduction of the hours of labor; to abolish the system of contract labor in all shops, prisons and reformatory institutions, and to prohibit the employment of children under the age of fourteen years.

—Church fairs, with their grab-bags and other affairs of chance, are sometimes objected to by outspoken church-people amongst us. But we have not to complain of the lottery, on a large scale. In Quebec province, however, the lottery enjoys the sanction of the Church of Rome. The final drawing of Father Labelle's "Colonization Lottery" took place on Friday last in Montreal, when the reverend father announced that the colonization society realized no profit out of the scheme, so he is going to start a new one, offering \$50,000 instead of \$100,000. This is a most demoralizing business. The fence and walls of this very city have been placarded in yellow with the alluring features of such a scheme. There were two classes of prizes. In one class, for a chance in which the entrant must pay a dollar, there were offered some five thousand premiums, ranging from a professed value of \$10 in the shape of a silver watch to "a real estate" worth \$5000. In the other class, the awards ran from a lot of land worth \$2500 down to an alarm clock at a dollar; and to obtain a chance therein, the speculator had to risk only a quarter of a dollar. Such affairs should be put down. They pander to a weakness of human nature which aims to get something valuable for next to nothing. It is a gambling spirit which needs to be repressed rather than cultivated or encouraged under the shelter of religion or under the pretence of good works.

—"The music of the shuttle will then be heard for the first time in the land," says the *Victoria Times* with reference to the prospective opening of the woollen mill at New Westminster, the machinery for which has been ordered from Lowell, Mass. The journal named believes that a proposition is now before the Victoria City Council, from a gentleman in Ontario, to equip and operate a small mill in that place, and says: "It is possible that two one-set mills might succeed in British Columbia, but care should be taken not to overdo the business. The manufacture of wool will be profitable to the extent of the wool product of the province, but could not, in our opinion, be made remunerative if the raw material has to be imported. There is, we are informed, about 75,000 pounds of wool marketed in British Columbia every year. But with local consumption and a ready market, such as mills would produce, the yield would no doubt rapidly increase."

—New Brunswick four per cent. debentures have recently been disposed of at 98 and 99 in St. John. Nova Scotia four and a half have been sold at 104 and 5% debentures at a rate to yield 4½. All bank stocks in the Maritime Provinces appear to be steadily rising in price, and we are told that the demand is in excess of the supply.

—Apples continue to be shipped from Halifax in large quantities. Five special trains recently passed over the Windsor & Annapolis Railway with several thousand barrels of apples to be sent forward to the London market. Shippers are getting good reports, and what is better, profitable returns, from Britain, where the best brands are now selling at from 18 to 20/ per barrel.

Correspondence.

MATTERS IN PARRY SOUND DISTRICT.

To the Editor of the *Monetary Times*:

Trade is certainly improving in this district. It centres chiefly in Parry Sound, but since the establishment of navigation along the river Maganetewan thirty-five miles westward from the railroad at Burk's Falls, a large part of the district is being supplied in summer by steamer through the locks at Maganetewan to Ahenic Harbor. Of course, Parry Sound, although the trade centre of the district, is only a summer out-let, and the reason why it holds the principal part of the winter trade is because its merchants, being able, stock up heavily at the close of navigation, and job during the winter to smaller concerns. To the credit of the province merchants of Parry Sound, it can be said that prices fixed at close of navigation never change, neither because of scarcity nor higher city quotations, during the whole winter.

Burks Fall's, about midway from Gravenhurst and Callander, on the railroad, bids fair to become, shortly, an important centre for the trade of the east, but the present state of affairs may change considerably in the near future. We are encouraged to hope that the extension by the Grand Trunk of a road through here to the Sault may create a trade centre near our own handsome village, McKellar, and thus change, to some extent, the course of a large part of the trade of the Parry Sound District. There will be a contest some time soon between the different villages as to the location of the county seat, and not only between the villages now existing, but by reason of the building of new railways it may be that other claimants will arise. The lumbering operations are as brisk as usual and continue to be a great help to the progress of the settlers.

Crops were good last season. Grain of all kinds is well filled, hard and heavy. Beef is abundant and, much of it is as good as can be found anywhere.

More interest is being taken in wool-growing, so facilities for procuring and keeping sheep increase. The woollen mill erected recently at this place has been sold to a firm in Wallacetown who will arrive, with their families and effects next week. The purchasers are practical men and it is expected that the woollen business will be carried by them successfully forward. There is no other mill in the district and McKellar will therefore be a "woollen centre." Some of our people who own sheep are disposing of the commoner breeds and replacing them with South-downs. One of our neighbors, whose flock last year was not over one hundred, has brought in seventy-five South-downs this fall to replace that number of inferior grades. This district is well-known to be a most suitable place for sheep and wool raising and the mutton of this country is said to be superior.

The manufacture of cheese would also be found profitable here and the wonder is that no factories are yet started. McKellar has also a good opening for a physician.

S. & J. ARMSTRONG.

VIEWS FROM PORT ARTHUR.

To the Editor of the *Monetary Times*.

SIR,—Business for the present calendar year has been considerably better than during 1885. The stagnation caused by the completion of construction on the north shore division of the Canadian Pacific has about vanished, and business is steadily improving. Mining is to a large extent taking the place of railroading. There are a number of silver mines working within forty miles of Port