

the Industrial Exhibition. The article in question stated "That where twelve men were employed a year ago, thirty men were now engaged in the different branches." The manager of the company, Mr. J. A. Watts, has called our attention to the fact that this is a mistake, and that they have now over one hundred men on their pay roll. We have pleasure in making the correction.

**A SAFE BANK.**—We noticed on the corner of King and Yonge streets the other day what appeared to be a small-sized dwelling house on wheels. Enquiry elicited the fact that it was not a bullet-proof house intended for shipment to Ireland for landlords' use, and warranted bullet proof, but one of Messrs. J. & J. Taylor's steel linings for the inside of the Dominion Bank Vault. The bank has shown sound sense, we think, in lining their vault with steel, and should, when finished, inscribe over the door the legend "Bring on your Burglars."

**FOILED.**—A jeweler named E. Rosseau, who kept a small store in London East, and "left" suddenly, was arrested in Detroit last month, on the complaint of Robert McGill. The latter keeps a jewelry store in that city, and charges that Rosseau gained his confidence by negotiations to buy his business. In order to learn what amount of trade was being done, Rosseau was permitted the freedom of the store and allowed to wait on customers. McGill missed a number of watches left to be repaired, and suspecting Rosseau, caused his arrest. Rosseau waived examination and is held for trial.

**ANOTHER DISSATISFIED COMPETITOR.**—The position of judge at one of our exhibitions is never a particularly happy one at best, but it becomes doubly embarrassing when every competitor is bound to have the first prize. We notice in one of the London papers that Mr. F. T. Trebilcock, jeweler, of London, sent a jewelry exhibit to the Western Fair, which did not take the first prize. Mr. Trebilcock feels aggrieved at this, and is out with a \$1,000 challenge to the winner of the first prize, claiming that one of the judges was a tinsmith, one a dealer in crockery and the other a foundryman, and all of them utterly ignorant of the jewelry business. Without expressing any opinion whatever as to the merit of the award, we may say that we very much doubt whether Mr. Trebilcock's challenge will result in anything more than a cheap advertisement for himself.

**AN HONEST FARMER.**—A very funny story has been going the rounds of the press of this country, to the effect that a farmer somewhere near Ogdensburg sometime ago shot a pigeon and found attached to its leg a quill containing several diamonds of the very finest quality. The farmer was not only honest enough not to keep them, but sagacious enough to take them straight to the collector of customs at Ogdensburg, who of course smelt a very big mouse in the affair. Special detectives were put on the track of these pigeons, and finally, after weeks of watching and waiting, the dove cote was found, but alas, the smugglers had flown. Now all this is good enough for a dime novel, but as far as it is practically concerned it's non-

sense. Who would ever think of risking valuable diamonds in this way when, without the slightest trouble or risk they could be carried over the border in one's pocket. The thing is absurd, and we don't think anyone who had money enough to pay for diamonds of any kind would ever risk them in this way. Fancy people smuggling diamonds by the use of carrier pigeons when bulky and almost valueless stuff are smuggled over in quantities every day of the year.

IN OUR LAST ISSUE we published a note from the *Castrook Observer* in reference to a seizure of jewelry at that place, belonging to the firm of J. H. Jones & Co., of Montreal. The impression made upon our mind from the article copied was that the goods were seized while Mr. Jones was *en route* from New York to Montreal. Had this been the case the seizure would have been proper, and the goods would probably have been confiscated. We are informed, however, that the goods seized were simply those carried around the country by the firm's travellers in the ordinary course of business, and was done at the instigation of interested parties, more as a matter of spite in order to cause the firm inconvenience, than with any idea that the goods had been smuggled and could be really confiscated. Messrs. Jones & Co. are credited with having given the eastern customs authorities a good many points regarding the smuggling of jewelry by opponents in business, and it is thought that some of those inconveniences by the information, resorted to the expedient above referred to as one means of getting even with them. We think that Messrs. Jones & Co. are to be commended for doing all they can to stamp out smuggling, and when they have got it thoroughly eradicated in Montreal they might turn their attention to Toronto.

### WORKSHOP NOTES.

**ALUMINUM SILVER.**—The following alloy is said to receive a high lustre and polish: Copper, 70 parts; nickel, 23; aluminum, 7.

**GOLD TINGE TO SILVER.**—A bright gold tinge may be given to silver by steeping it for a suitable length of time in a weak solution of sulphuric acid and water, strongly impregnated with iron rust.

**TO WRITE IN SILVER.**—Mix 1 ounce of the finest powder or block tin and 2 ounces of mercury together till both become fluid, then grind it with gum water, and write with it. The writing will then look as if done with silver.

**MAKING POLISH FOR BRASS.**—Add to sulphuric acid half its bulk of bichromate of potash; dilute with an equal weight of water, and apply well to brass; rinse it well immediately in water, wipe dry, and polish with pulverised rotten stone.

**TO TIGHTEN A CANON PINION.**—The canon pinion is sometimes too loose upon the centre arbor. Grasp the arbor tightly with a pair of cutting nippers, and by a single turn of the nippers around the arbor cut or raise a small thread thereon.

**TIMING FRENCH CLOCKS.**—Scape wheels of French clocks make two revolutions per minute, or four vibrations to each tooth. They may be quickly brought to time by counting the beats

of pendulum per minute equal four times the number in the scape wheel.

**TO SOLDER GERMAN SILVER.**—Dissolve granulated zinc in spirits of salt in an earthen vessel. Cleanse the part to be soldered, and apply the spirits of salts. Next put a piece of powder soldered on the joint and apply the blowpipe to it. Melt German silver 1 part, and zinc in thin sheets 4 parts, then powder it for solder.

**SILVER ASSAY BY SMELTING.**—If no lead is present, mix 600 grains of the pulverized ore with 300 grains carbonate of soda, 600 grains of litharge and 12 grains of charcoal in a crucible; add a slight pinch of borax over all, put on the furnace, melt, take off, give it a few taps to settle the metal, let it cool, and remove the bottom.

**PICKLE FOR FROSTING.**—Silver goods may be frosted and whitened by preparing a pickle of sulphuric acid 1 drachm, water 4 ounces; heat it and immerse the silver articles until frosted as desired; then wash off clean, and dry with a soft linen cloth, or in fine clean sawdust. For whitening only, a smaller quantity of acid may be employed.

**ALABASTER CEMENT.**—1. Finely powder plaster of Paris made into a paste with water. 2. Melt rosin, or equal parts of yellow rosin and beeswax, then stir in half as much powdered plaster of Paris. The first is used to join and fit together pieces of alabaster or marble, or to mend broken plaster figures. The second is to join alabaster, marble and other similar substances that will bear heating.

**REGULATING THE BALANCE.**—To reduce an exactly equilibrated compensation balance to preserve uniform time in horizontal as well as vertical position, it is necessary to equalize the pivot friction to its smallest possible quantity. It is also necessary to see that the jewel holes be not unduly thick, that they are truly round and well polished. If this is not the case, they are to be corrected to correspond with these requirements, or else replaced by suitable ones.

**TO MAKE BURNISHERS.**—Proceed the same as in making pivot files, with the exception that you are to use fine flour of emery, or a slip of oiled brass or copper, instead of the emery paper. Burnishers which have become too smooth may be improved vastly with the flour of emery as above, without drawing the temper. To prepare one for polishing, melt a little beeswax on the face of your burnisher. Its effect then on brass or other fine metals will be equal to the best buff. A small burnisher prepared in this way is the very thing with which to polish up watch wheels. Rest them on a piece of pith while polishing.

### OTHER NOTES.

**THE DESERT SAHARA.**—M. de Lessops, in a recent lecture on the feasibility of filling the Desert of Sahara with water from the Red Sea, said that the evaporating power of the sun is less there than in the Red Sea, and he does not anticipate that the water will dry up. The cost of the necessary works has now been estimated at 160,000,000 francs, and the time required at five years. All the projectors require is the concession of the lands which will form the shores of the lake.