

A preliminary meeting of the manufacturers of agricultural steam boilers was held last week at the Rossin House in this city, the following gentlemen being present: Mr. Barr, of Messrs. Reid & Barr, Hamilton; Mr. R. Whitelaw, of Woodstock; Mr. Abell, of Woodbridge; Mr. Haggart, of Brampton; and Mr. Burns, of Messrs. Stevens, Turner & Burns, London. After some time spent in discussing what effect the proposed legislation providing for the compulsory inspection of steam boilers would have upon their interests, Messrs. Haggart and Burns were deputed to wait upon the Ontario Government, in the interest of the manufacturers.

Last week a private meeting of lead and paint manufacturers in Toronto and Montreal was held in Toronto, for the purpose of making a standard price for ground leads. Toronto was represented by Messrs. James Robertson & Co., Elliot & Co., A. J. Somerville, and Lyman Bros. & Co.; and Montreal by Messrs. A. Ramsay & Co., William Johnson, James Robertson, and the Montreal Rolling Mills Co. The meeting was continued during three days, showing that business of importance was in hand. An understanding was arrived at, but at the last moment the Montreal Rolling Mills Co. refused to sign the agreement, and the meeting had to close without anything settled. It is considered probable, however, that an agreement will yet be reached.

In the cotton trade, as in the grain trade, there is an increasing tendency to *make* prices in America instead of leaving them to be made in England, as in time past. At New York, Savannah, Mobile and New Orleans, American operators put cotton up to figures above the export basis to Liverpool, consequently buyers cannot take it. For now six or eight months back, Chicago wheat prices have been most of the time so much above the New York and Liverpool basis that one almost wonders how wheat could be sent eastward at all, except at a loss. As the operation of exporting at a loss cannot very long be continued, either with cotton from New Orleans or wheat from Chicago, we are driven to the conclusion that there is a large element of fiction in American market quotations of these staples.

Messrs. John Lovell & Son, Montreal, have lately issued their Business and Professional Directory of the Province of Ontario, for the year 1882.

To manufacturers it will be an especial boon, as we have often heard the wish expressed for such a work, which is now within their reach. In addition to the alphabetical directory of the Province, it gives a valuable classification of businesses for both Ontario and the city of Montreal; the customs and excise tariffs, with latest corrections; postal guide for the Dominion; list of banks and their agencies; railway and steamboat routes with key; historical sketches of the several Provinces and of Newfoundland, and many other special features which commend it at once as a hand-book of reference that should be in the office of every manufacturer and man of business. Messrs. Lovell and Son are noted for the excellence and reliability of their Directories, and have certainly added much to their reputation by the work just published.

Elsewhere will be found a letter on the openings for manufacturing enterprise which may be found in the Maritime Provinces, which is worthy the attention of our readers generally. That these Provinces, with vast supplies of coal either on the spot or within convenient distance, should, in manufacturing, have been so far behind the inland Province of Ontario, which has no coal at all, seems rather surprising at first view, but the fact is susceptible of a very simple explanation, after all. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick *trade by sea* dwarfed everything else in present importance; nobody thought of manufacturing at home anything that could so conveniently be brought from abroad. The proximity of the New England States, with their large factories and surplus of many and various manufactures offered by innumerable "Sam Slicks,"—all native and to the manner born—actually had great influence in repressing manufacturing enterprise in the Provinces. Then again, the wave of Protectionist agitation which swept over Quebec and Ontario in 1858, resulting in the National Policy of that year, did not touch the Maritime Provinces. Had the same thing then happened there which did here, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick would years ago have been ahead of Old Canada instead of behind it in manufacturing. But, letting all that pass, it is evident that a revival has struck in along the sea-shore at last, and we shall be happy from time to time to chronicle its progress.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

CORDOVAN LEATHER INDUSTRY.

Among the new industries which the protective tariff has brought to Canada is the manufacture of cordovan leathers. Messrs. Jacobi & Knees, of Acton, are the pioneers of this industry in the Dominion. Cordovan leathers are made from the hides of wild horses, the skins of tame animals not being of the requisite quality. Messrs. Jacobi & Knees import their green hides from South America. The hide is divided at a line drawn across it twenty inches from the tail, and the front part is made into satin calf finish, straight grained, pebble, English grain, seal skin grain, and any other finish required by the shoe trade. In the hinder part of the hide, or as it is technically called, the "butt," are found two oval spots, which alone of all the hide are suitable for shell Cordovans, and are cut into galoshes, vamps, tongue boots, boot fronts, etc. Mr. Knees, who is the practical man in the firm, was, prior to the passing of the present tariff, engaged in a similar business at Newark, New Jersey, and from there had been supplying the Canadian trade; but the N.P. showed him that it would pay to manufacture on this side of the line, and accordingly the little village of Acton has the benefit of an establishment which gives constant employment to twenty-six men at good wages, with good prospects of having their number doubled shortly. The neighbouring farmers have a market for about 150 cords of soft wood annually, which would otherwise be worthless, and for about 500 cords of bark, at about \$4.50 per cord, while the country at large retains at home the money which formerly went to build up American cities. Mr. Knees holds the Centennial medal and the Vienna medal of '73, both of course won when he was manufacturing in the United States. We should have stated that this establishment is the third on the Continent, there being but two in the U.S.