

THE four horse-power Gas Engine lately introduced by Messrs. P. W. Ellis & Co. into their manufactory, has proved a complete success. It does its work noiselessly and efficiently.

MESSRS. H. Smith and W. F. Carrier, of Toronto, sailed last week for England, via New York. We wish them a prosperous voyage and safe return.

MESSRS. Dines & McKeown, hardware merchants, of Dresden, have recently sold out their business. As far as we can learn, their creditors are likely to whistle for their money, as the whole transaction bears a very fishy appearance. So much for the want of a proper Insolvent Act.

We are glad to learn that Messrs. Zimmerman, McNaught & Co. have been appointed sole wholesale agents in Canada for the Lancaster Watch Co. The watches made by this Company now rank the highest of any made in America, and we think that their introduction into Canada at this time should not only be of advantage to the trade generally, but to the manufacturers as well.

DETROIT Evening News says.—The revival of American shipbuilding and carrying trade can never be brought about by taxing the people to pay bounties to American shipbuilders and subsidies to American ship-owners. As well might we get up an international walking match, offer a prize to the fastest walker, then deliberately tie the legs of all American competitors and leave the legs of the foreigners free.

THE Stock-in-trade belonging to the estate of W. B. Stewart, of this city, comprising paints, oils, glass, &c., amounting to over \$14,000, was sold through Scott, Sutherland & Co., trade auctioneers, and realizing 67c. in the dollar, the purchasers being Messrs. Ramsay, Drake, and Dods, of Montreal. The fixtures were bought by Mr. E. Harris, of this city, at 47c. in the dollar; and the book debts, amounting to over \$7,000, were withdrawn, the upset price placed upon them by the trustee not being reached.

THE friends of Messrs. Cobban & Co., of this city were hardly prepared for the announcement made last week that some arrangement with the creditors of that firm was necessary. We understand that the manufacturing business of the firm is in a very promising condition so far as orders and possible profits go. But they are too heavily weighted with bad debts of former years, some \$12,000 in amount, and cannot go on without additional capital. A statement of their affairs is being prepared.

PORTERS in the sleeping-cars in New York State get ten cent pieces from passengers, as a rule, and many travellers never give anything, except for some special service. In the West a quarter is the common fee, and the Chicago Times is authority for the statement that the Pullman and the Wagner Companies take the fees into account in fixing wages. During seasons when travel is lightest the pay is from \$20 to \$30 a month, but as traffic increases the rate is lowered to \$8, and sometimes to nothing at all. The places, however, are eagerly sought.

MR. GEORGE HOWARD has evidently been very attentive to the interests of his fellow townsmen of Guelph, and, that in consideration of this service, we presume, they honored him by electing him as mayor a couple of years ago. Un-

fortunately, however, this honor was not appreciated by his creditors. Having such a prominent position, his stove and tinware business did not get that attention it deserved, consequently he is now asking his creditors to accept one half the amount he owes as a settlement of their claims.

A NEW gun, said to surpass all others in death-dealing powers, was tested a fortnight ago on the Hasenhaide at Berlin by an Imperial Military Commission, the inventor, Conrad Garbe, being present. The result was a favourable one, as the arm was proved capable of amazing rapidity in use. Its principal advantage lies in its simple construction, which makes necessary only four movements of the hands for loading and discharging. The cartridge cap can be expelled by a lateral jerk. The kick of the weapon, which weighs only nine pounds, is hardly if at all, perceptible. The Commission recommended its adoption by the German army, and that partly in view of the fact that the Mauser gun now in use can be easily remodelled on the Garbe system.

MR THOS. M. BANTING, finds it needful to ask an extension of 18 months time, showing liabilities of \$9,149 and a surplus of \$2,049 and meantime makes an assignment in trust to a Hamilton creditor. He proposes to pay in full with interest at seven per cent. at the rate of \$300 per month for seven months and \$600 per month thereafter. Mr. Banting possessed a nominal surplus a few years ago of \$6,000 or perhaps \$8,000, but his stock of late has been extensive and his business mainly a credit one. Losses on his out standings, we must presume account for the dwindling of his assets.

A report on the state of religion in Nevada would be almost as brief as the famous chapter on snakes in Ireland. The following anecdote might, however, be inserted. At the recent opening of the Nevada Legislature an Eastern minister was invited to perform the religious service. He accepted the call and closed the ceremony with the Lord's Prayer. When he had finished, State Senator Doolan turned to Senator Hammond and remarked audibly: "He stole that prayer and I'll bet on it. I heard it almost word for word in Eureka at a funeral over ten years ago."

THE Earl of Cairness, who died lately in New York, had a strong liking for mechanics and in his younger days worked for some time in a large engineering establishment in Manchester. He used to tell with some pride that, although he then lived a mile and a half from town, he always walked to his work, ready to begin at six o'clock, summer and winter and was never a day late. He was patentee of several inventions, including an improvement on the tape-loom, for which he received £500, but he always said, had he been a business man, he should have made a fortune by it, as it has been so generally adopted, and such an immense saving has been obtained by its use. Among other inventions were a gravitating compass, a road locomotive, with carriage (in which he, along with the Countess, travelled on one occasion from Inverness to Barrogill Castle at the rate of some sixteen miles an hour on the level road, creating quite a sensation); a machine for washing railway carriages, &c.

THE first watch was about the size of a desert plate. It had weights, and was used as a "pocket clock." The earliest known use of the modern name occurs in the record of 1572, which mentions that Edward VI. had "one larum or watch of iron, the case being likewise of iron gilt, with two plummetts of lead." The first great improvement—the substitution of a spring for weights—was in 1560. The earliest springs were not coiled, but only straight pieces of steel. Early watches had only one hand, and, being wound up twice a day, they could not be expected to keep the time nearer than within 15 or 20 minutes in 12 hours. The dials were of silver and brass, the cases had no crystals, but opened at the back and front and were four or five inches in diameter. A plain watch cost more than \$1,500, and after 20 was ordered, it took a year to make it.

SAYS the Louisville Courier-Journal—*Harper's Weekly* and the *Chicago Tribune* see great danger to American workmen in the Trades Unions, because they limit the number of apprentices and condemn others to idleness. But these organs of the party of protection should consider that the workingman has as much need of protection as has the capitalist. The tariff does not protect the workingman. Mechanics from England, Germany, and France come to America in swarms, and depress the labour market. The tariff protects the employer, but does not protect the employee, so he proposes to take care of himself, and applies to the labour market, as far as is possible to him, exactly the principles which the manufacturer induces the government to apply to manufactured goods. If the rule is good in one case it is good in another. The manufacturer says:—"The fewer the competitors the higher the price," and asks the Government to keep out the English. The workingmen say:—"The fewer the competitors the better our wages," and they resolve that only a limited number of apprentices shall be taught their trade.

THE illuminated advertising card mania, which was imported from Europe into Boston about a year ago, has now reached New York, and is rapidly spreading over the south and west of the Union. The craze is said to have begun in Paris about fifteen years ago, and to have spread thence to Berlin and Vienna and all over Germany. Thence it extended to Italy and over nearly all of Europe. The present extent of the rage in Boston is indicated by the statement that one of the leading Boston papers in a recent issue published one column and a half of the announcements of firms and establishments devoted to the trade in illuminating cards as a specialty. Large numbers of stationers in New York and elsewhere are now devoting their capital and energies to procuring assortments of cards for sale, and many lithographers are kept busy in preparing them. The best designs are imported and appropriated just as books by our enterprising cousins, who here have a new field for the exercise of their imitative talents. For instance, a series was recently imported from Paris which could not be sold for less than \$40 a thousand. In two weeks a Philadelphia firm had *fac similes* in the market, which "it would require careful and critical observation to distinguish" from the original, at \$10 a thousand. Large numbers of