during the meeting over the additions to the mill made a year ago, and the business tact of the English manufacturers who had supplied the machinery.

In a recent article on this subject the reference to the capacity of the Valleyfield Mill was not stated in a manner sufficiently clear, owing to the omission of part of a sentence. An examination of the returns of cotton imports for 1881 revealing the fact that 9 million of the total 12 million yards were white shirtings, at a time when the annual out-put or capacity of the Valleyfield Mill, the only Canada mill on this class of goods, was about 6 millions, it was determined to increase the capacity considerably. For this purpose they thought $250,000 would suffice, and deemed an issue of stock for $100,000 enough, but, with the old stock away above par, and paying almost unprecedented dividends (5 per cent quarterly) they had no difficulty in the matter, and $300,000 was fixed upon. The eventual cost amounted to $600,000. The same cause operated in partially diverting the product of the Hudon (Hochelaga) Mill to bleached goods; and in launching the Merchants' (St. Henry) Manufacturing Co., working exclusively on white goods. The capacity of these three mills on bleached cottons is about 20 million yards per annum. The Valleyfield has put in only about two-thirds of the machinery for which space is provided. It is one of the finest buildings of the kind in the world, and on approach its various turrets and embrasures would lead one to suppose he was in view of some revived feudal pile. The offices may vie with the finest in Montreal. A salary of $10,000 is not probably too much for the manager of such an establishment. Three thousand dollars a year is divided among the directors.

Much has been written on the demand of our population for cotton fabrics. A gentleman largely interested in our cotton mills supplies us with the following information: In the United States there is one spindle for every four persons, a spindle making about a pound of yarn per week. In Canada we have one spindle for every ten persons. A pound of yarn makes say 3½ yards. This would give over 40 yards for each person in the United States, but only about 17 yards per head in Canada per year, probably an under estimate. The United States manufacturers have some export trade, and fully half the product is print goods; they also manufacture towelings, counterpanes and other goods which our mills have not as yet begun to make. It is to be presumed also that, owing to our colder climate, woollen goods are more worn, rendering our consumption of cotton fabrics somewhat less than that of our neighbors. Another point to be considered is that the finer class of goods requires less looms. But all attempts at accuracy in such statements are hazardous pending the preparation of statistics yet incomplete. The following statement of the quantity and value of cotton goods imported to Canada for the fiscal year ended 30th June last goes somewhat to prove the claims of some cotton manufacturers that there is little danger of over-production if the products of our mills be sufficiently diversified:

Description.	Country whence imported.	Entered for Consumption. Quantity.	Value.
		sq. yd.	$
Grey or unbleached and blch'ed cotton sheetings, drills, ducks, cottons or cotton flanne's, not stained, painted or printed	G.Britain	6,724,934	480,844
	U. States.	4,019,280	439,392
	France.	5,019	560
		10,749,233	920,796
Ginghams & plaids, dyed or colored...	G.Britain	146,163	17.696
	U. States.	68,527	9,166
		214,690	26,862
Denims, drillings, bed-tickings, cotton or Canton flannels, ducks and drills, dyed or colored, checked and striped shirtings, cottonades, pantaloon stuff, Kentucky jeans, sand goods of like descriptions.....	G.Britain	3,230,510	429,329
	U. States.	2,022,646	325,969
	France.	3,709	552
	Germany	5,903	1,390
	Holland.	814	229
	Belgium.	1,883	275
	China.	119	19
	N.Land.	39	14
		5,265,623	757,777
		Yards.	
White or dyed cotton, jeans, cottelles, cambries, silicias, casbans and printed calicoes ..	G.Britain	19,182,168	1,374,798
	U. States.	3,386,699	265,501
	France.	8,392	1,208
	Germany	43,456	4,046
		22,620,706	1,645,553

A Lesson for Visionary Speculators.—Mr. R. W. Cowan, retail hatter and furrier, whose failure was referred to last week, has assigned to Mr. John S. McLachlan, who had befriended him with advances of money to carry on the business. Mr. Cowan is a merchant of long standing in this city, and had made money enough to purchase an interest some six years ago in a leading wholesale firm. This he sold out in a year or two, retiring worth about $25,000. As a man of known means and probity he soon became a target for the promoters of various visionary enterprises, always to be found about our large cities ready to make men's fortunes in the twinkling of an eye. He was persuaded to invest some $10,000 in what was known as the "Mineral Point Tunnel," a joint stock scheme, magnanimously laid before the people of Montreal, for boring a hole through one of the mountains in the wilds of Arizona, supposed to rival in undug wealth the mountain which was discovered by Sinbad the Sailor. Mr. Wayne Griswold, previously canvassing agent for a leading evening daily of this city, succeeded in interesting several of our business men in the scheme, and one wealthy man in Quebec, notwithstanding the correspondence and articles in these columns at the time. Some of these gentlemen succeeded afterwards in disposing of many of their shares; Mr. Cowan sold only a very few of his. He also embarked in a balloon scheme. The promoter of this wonderful flying machine claimed for it that it could be guided and run among the clouds in any direction despite winds or weather. It is needless to say that this also proved a failure. Some three years ago a wholesale firm in the city, who are now creditors for some $12,000, agreed to help Mr. Cowan to re-engage in his old business, which he accordingly resumed in the old stand; but the firm seeing that grain speculations in Chicago had cost Mr. Cowan some $900, and that he had lent his name for nearly $2,000 to a city fur house, evidently became unable to carry out their promises. Their senior partner had withdrawn from the business with his capital ($10,000) and some $7000 additional. The kindness of a friend who recognized his integrity helped Mr. Cowan along for some time, until it became clearly a hopeless endeavour. The estate will be disposed of as announced last week.

Utilizing Ashes.—A Pittsburg mechanic has been for some time experimenting with, and has a patent for, the use of ashes in making mortar. In the city of New York about 700,000 cubic yards of ashes are annually produced, which require to be carted to the docks, loaded upon boats and taken to the lower bay in order to dispose of them, at a cost to the city of over $400,000. In addition to this, the large manufacturers dispose of their own ashes in like manner at their own cost. The fine portion of the ashes of domestic production that is, stoves, grates, ranges and heaters, capable of being converted, with a small portion of lime, into a mortar having a tensile strength of from four to five times, that of common sand and lime mortar, or about 80 pounds per square inch, one month old, to sand mortar 20 pounds at the same age, and when mixed as beton, gives a tensile strength of 140 pounds and crushing strength of over 1100 pounds per square inch, one month old. It will thus be seen that, by utilizing the ashes for mortar, a large part of the expense of removal could be saved, together with the whole cost of procuring sand for the purpose, and at the same time a very superior article of mortar be produced. In consequence of the small quantity of lime required (10 per cent.) it would be necessary to mix the mortar by machinery at a mill and deliver it ready for use. This practice prevails to a great extent in European cities on account of the decided superiority of milled over hand-made mortar. Ash-mortar has the additional advantages of resisting the action of water as soon as it is set (in from two or three days) and also the combined action of fire and water, the quantity of lime being so small and the chemical union with the ash so complete that the application of heat does not produce free oxide of lime as in the case of sand-mortar when both are dry, and it works soft and smooth. Ash-mortar forms, when set, a silicate of lime and alumina, and hardens uniformly throughout, like cement; while sand-mortar, when set, is but an imperfect carbonate of lime, the sand furnishing but the nucleus around which the carbonate forms. Ashes made under steam boilers, or in other fires where a high degree of heat is maintained, are not suitable for mortar, owing to the chemical change which takes place in the fire; the finest part of such ash, that found behind the bridge-wall of the boiler, being found to be the same nature as the course clinker, having no special affinity for lime, and being only fit for combination with cement or plaster.—*Mech. and Milling News.*

Evidences of mineral wealth are becoming frequent in our North-West territories. The new finds of coal announced bid fair to solve one of the chief difficulties in the way of the settler. The people of Winnipeg hope to be able to get their coal as cheap as their fellow-countrymen on the St. Lawrence. Mr. J. Hambly writes from Edmonton, the 15th ult., as follows:—"Would you be so kind as to put in communication with me some person that would handle a mica mine, as I have a large deposit of that material, one hundred and fifty miles from the C. P. R., almost directly south from here. The mica is very fine, being very clear, and stands fire well; it peels very nicely in plates about six or eight inches square, and I suppose larger plates could be peeled off from cokes got further into the mine. It could be easily worked, easily got at, and could be worked in summer or winter; operations could be commenced at once, and a large quantity