

loops, and, seizing the thread, returns with it, when, by the most ingenious of all operations, a square knot is tied at the end, between the leaves, the thread being drawn taut. An arrangement reminding one of the operation of a pair of scissors is at one end of the throat-plate, which at the proper time cuts the thread to exactly the length required. The details of the machine are worked out in such a way as to make failure to act properly almost an impossibility. One of these machines has been on exhibition at a large book-binding in New York, where it has been doing regular work, giving the most perfect satisfaction."

Steel Stove Castings.

We have called attention in previous editions of this journal to the manufacture of steel stove castings by a St. Louis malleable iron company, but seeing that the new business is attracting wide-spread and well deserved attention in the stove trade, we think it not out of place to refer to it again.

In the first place, we may say that the mixture used by the company in making their steel is a secret known only to themselves. As to the fitness of the steel for stove making, however, the contrary is true; its good qualities have been pretty well learned by some of the leading stove manufacturers in this country. The advantages claimed for it (in the form of stove castings) may be briefly set forth as follows:

Firstly, the castings are vastly superior in strength to those made from cast iron, and for this reason can be and are made much lighter in weight than the old kind. For illustration, the company's covers run about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness and weigh a little over two pounds, against covers in cast iron that run from 3 16 inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in thickness, and weigh from six to fifteen pounds. Secondly, the castings being light and of good quality, the cost of transportation is greatly reduced, and loss by breakage is minimized. Thirdly, the texture of the steel being very dense the castings transmit heat much better than would cast iron parts. Fourthly, the castings are as smooth as if each one had been separately planed and polished, making them look much neater and handsomer than the ordinary kind, while rendering them easier to clean. Fifthly, the durability of the castings is such that in the long run they may be regarded as extremely cheap, being guaranteed to last at least five times as long as cast iron. It is said that it is almost impossible to warp them or burn them out, and if by any accident they should become warped, they can be heated red hot and with a hammer or hatchet be pounded straight again. Sixthly, any quality of coal can be burned in the stove in which the castings are used, the quality of the metal being such that cinders will not adhere to the sides or bottom, to the disadvantage of the draft and the heating of the stove itself.

Steel water-fronts just now are one of the company's prominent specialties. They are made from the steel invented by themselves, and are said to be able to withstand a pressure of 500 pounds to the square inch. They are made like the company's covers, quite thin,

assuring rapid heating, and enabling smaller sizes to be used than ordinarily obtained. Their safety as regards explosions is a feature that strongly recommends them to housekeepers, especially in cold weather.

Some of the tests to which the company put their steel stove castings are spoken of by themselves as follows:

"We heat the covers to a white heat and plunge them immediately in ice water without cracking or injuring them in the least. We attach our water-fronts to our boiler and cannot use steam pressure enough to burst them. We can throw them from almost any height on to a stone pavement without breaking them."

— *Age of Steel.*

The English Wheat Crop.

The English wheat crop of 1884, from official returns of the board of trade, is 77,867,616 bus; Scotland 2,348,261, and Ireland 1,000,000 bus, making the United Kingdom, 81,215,877 bus. In twenty-two weeks 29,284,912 bus have been delivered. The seed requirements are about 8,000,000 bus leaving a home crop for consumption of 73,215,877 bus, of which about 30,000,000 have been delivered, leaving about 43,250,000 bus in January still on the English farmers' hands. The annual consumption is 212,000,000 bus, leaving the annual requirement of foreign wheat about 138,000,000 of which about 55,261,992 bus had been imported from Sept. 1, 1881, to Jan. 24, 1884, leaving 82,738,058 to be imported. Of this quantity, 19,128,000 were on passage Jan. 29, 1885. The foreign supply of fresh shipments will be about 63,600,000 bus.

— *Northwestern Miller*

A Lifting Drawbridge for the Thames.

Horace Jones, architect to the corporation of London, has designed a novel bridge to be constructed across the Thames below London Bridge. It will be 850 feet in length, and is to cost \$4,000,000. The water-way will be obstructed by two piers only, leaving a clear way of 200 feet in the centre when the draw is open. The piers will be crowned by towers 202 feet in height, in which will be located machinery lifting the bed of the bridge to either side for the passing of ships and steamers. The two piers are connected by an upper roadway, over which pedestrians can pass when the draw is open, hydraulic lifts being provided for their ascent and descent. *Chicago Journal of Commerce.*

GREAT BRITAIN last year gave to British steamships for carrying foreign mails a sum equal to the gross receipts from foreign postage plus \$1,500,000.

Recent Legal Decisions.

STATUTE OF FRAUDS — DELIVERY — ACCEPTANCE.—A delivery by the seller to a carrier selected by him for transportation to the purchaser of goods sold under an agreement void by the statute of frauds is not such a delivery and acceptance as will take the agreement out of the operation of the statute, according to the decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court in

the case of *The Simmonds Hardware Company vs. Mullen.*

MEANING OF WORDS USED IN TRADE. — Words in the particular trade of selling and buying bacon and pork sides the words "fully cured" were used as a descriptive of the classification of articles sold, the Supreme Court of Illinois held that in a contest in regard thereto such words should have the meaning attached to them by experts—that is, persons in the trade. *Featherston vs. Rounsvill et al.*, decided February 7.

MUTUAL BENEFIT INSURANCE — "WIDOW." — Where a member of a mutual benefit association being married, married a second time, the second wife being unaware that he was already married, and where the certificate or agreement issued to him by the association by its terms provided that the money due thereon after his decease should be paid to his "widow," and there was no widow then to his children, the General term of the New York Supreme Court held the wife by the second marriage was to be "widow" within the terms of the certificate, and that she was entitled to them as against the children by the first wife. *Polar vs. Mutual Benefit Association of New York vs. Bonifree et al.* It appeared that after the death of the first wife the deceased had remarried and introduced the successful claimant as his wife from that time till the time of his decease. These circumstances, in the view of the court, justified the presumption that a voluntary marriage had taken place between the parties, a presumption which was sufficient for the support of her claim in the case.

AGENCY — AUTHORITY — SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS. — If a person authorize another to assume the apparent right of disposing of property in the ordinary course of trade a purchaser is the right to presume that the apparent authority is the real authority, and the title passes, notwithstanding special instructions from the principal to his agent, of which the purchaser had no notice. So held by the Kentucky Superior Court in the case of *Abernathy et al. vs. Nelson.* In this case a mortgagee who had obtained a decree for the sale of mortgage tobacco agreed that the mortgagor might take the tobacco to a particular warehouse for sale, the proceeds to be paid to the commissioner and credited on the judgment. The mortgagee employed certain persons to take the tobacco to market and sell it for him, and bring the proceeds of sale, which they did, taking however, to a different warehouse than designated by the mortgagee. The court held that the title passed to the purchaser, notwithstanding appearing to indicate that the agent was clothed with a general authority to sell in the ordinary course of trade.

GUARANTY — RELEASE OF GUARANTOR. — A. & B. entered into a contract whereby A. & Co. agreed to sell to C. & Co. merchandise not to exceed in amount, at any time, the sum of \$3500, B. obligating himself in case of default in payment by C. & Co. to pay A. & Co. the deficiency or amount that might be "due by settlement" by C. & Co. to A. & Co. not to exceed the amount fixed. No time of credit was given, but the understanding was that C. & Co. were to pay as fast as they could collect.