

As showing the extraordinary increase in the value of land in the business parts of Toronto, it may be mentioned, that Mr. Bostwick the owner of the acre of land at the south-east corner of King and Yonge Streets purchased it for \$350, and at present he derives from it the yearly income of \$12,000 for ground rent alone.

PEOPLE in Simcoe are wondering at the failure of James A. Lyons, a dry goods merchant there, with large liabilities. It appears that Lyons's father and brother-in-law have obtained judgments against him for several round sums. Other creditors, considering such claims fraudulent, have had Lyons examined before the Master in Chancery, and will carry the investigation to Toronto Courts.

A short time ago the traveller of a well-known wholesale house in London called on a Glasgow trader for the usual annual account. With much apology that gentleman professed his inability to pay, but offered a bill at three months in place of the ready cash. After some demur this was accepted, and the necessary document drawn up and settled. Said the debtor. "Noo, my laddie, that's finished. I'll discount it for ye if ye weel." And the bill was discounted.

PETER MULLARKEY, a commercial traveller, of Montreal, has been remanded to gaol at London as a dangerous lunatic. He registered at Tecumseth House as T. Johnson, of Toronto, and labors under the hallucination that the proprietors of the Royal hotel, of Hamilton, are after him for some purpose or other. He was just on the point of jumping out of a second storey window of the Tecumseth when he was caught by one of the attaches of the house.

FLITMANN has discovered that by adding one-eighth of 1 per cent. of magnesium to fused nickel or cobalt, these metals, whether cold or hot, are capable of being easily forged or rolled into sheets. Cobalt alloyed with magnesium becomes very hard, and when polished, surpasses nickel in lustre and whiteness. Both the cobalt and the nickel, treated as above, remain untarnished when exposed to the atmosphere, and when cast in moulds have the same properties as cast steel.

It is stated on pretty good authority that the Hon. James Patton has received the appointment of Collector at the Port of Toronto. Some of the dailies are finding fault with Mr. Patton because he is not a commercial man, and think he is not qualified for the position. Our opinion is that if he can write his own name legibly, he will do fully as well as the late collector, as the work is really all done by assistants. The main want seems to be honesty, not ability.

A proposition has been made from the American Postal department to Canada that the postal arrangement between the Dominion and the United States be changed so as to provide for forwarding letters from either country to the other although they may not be fully prepaid. This would be a great improvement on the present system, which requires full prepayment, working inconveniences and even losses where omissions to prepay fully occur either from accident or ignorance of the requirement. It is suggested that under the proposed change deficient postage may be collected and retained by the country where the delivery is made.

ACCORDING to a Sheffield paper a very fine preparation for making steel very hard is composed of wheat flour, salt, and water, using, say, two teaspoonfuls of water, one-half a teaspoonful of flour, and one of salt. Heat the steel to be hardened enough to coat it with the paste by immersing it in the composition, after which heat it to a cherry red and plunge it into soft water. If properly done the steel will come out with a beautiful white surface. It is said that Stub's files are hardened in this manner.

CURIOUS MOTTOES.—The trade mottoes of some of the London associations are curious. The blacksmiths, for instance, have "By hammer and hand all arts do stand," the distillers, "Drop as rain, distill as dew," the founders, "God the only founder," the innholder, "Come, ye blessed, when I was harborless ye lodged me," the joiners, "Join loyalty and liberty," the saddlers, "Hold fast, sit sure," the weavers, "Weave truth and trust," and the needle-makers, "They sewed leaves together and made themselves aprons."

THE men employed at Krupp's manufactory are working night and day in supplying orders for large guns abroad. Roumania has ordered 100, Greece, 700, Sweden, 50, Holland, 120, and Italy, 400. In the presence of facts like these it is difficult to perceive from which direction the millenium is approaching. It looks very much as if the blast of war's great organ would shake the skies for a considerable time to come, unless, indeed, the planets are really engaged in the mean designs against the universe with which some people discredit them.

SMUGGLING across the boundary line that exists only in the air is easy, a fact which the Manitoba people seem to appreciate. So many goods have been brought into the Province of late without payment of Customs duties that Government have thought it necessary to appoint spies, who will watch Canadian visitors to St. Vincent and Pembina. Honest traders will scarcely be pleased at being dogged as a consequence of the tariff that puts a premium on smuggling, and the spy system will not hinder the illegal operations.

JOHN OVENS, of Galt, a young man who has been in the jewelry business in that place for the past five years, has just furnished another proof that it requires more than simply opening a store and hanging out one's shingle to ensure success. Although there was a good opening for his business, his capacity was insufficient, and this, combined with idle habits and lavish expenditure has brought him to grief. We understand that the estate is being sold by the Sheriff on an execution of the Wilkes estate. It is not probable that the unsecured creditors will get anything out of it.

MESSRS. BRONSDON, STEWART & Co., in the paint and oil trade in this city recently dissolved. Mr. Bronsdon retiring, and Mr. Stewart purposing to continue, a partner having offered who would supply additional capital. It now appears that the condition of the business proved, upon investigation, to be less favorable than Mr. Stewart had supposed, and the intended partnership was not carried out. The liabilities are \$22,000, almost all in Montreal and Toronto, while the assets are just about an equal figure. Under these circumstances, a

meeting of creditors was called for the 10th instant, when an offer of 75 cents in the dollar was made by Mr. Stewart, who is to be allowed some days to find security for it.

A PECULIAR case of business difficulty is that of Mr. Robert Balfour, a general merchant of good business ability and repute, in Port Colborne. The new Welland Canal passes by his shop door, but so close to it that the front entrance is utterly blocked, and resort has to be had to the back door, which is far from convenient. This objection had a serious effect on his business which has fallen behind, necessitating his asking indulgence from his creditors. He now offers 70 cents in the dollar, in 3, 6, 9 and 12 months, and to give his creditors half the amount he shall receive as compensation upon a claim made for the injury done him by the canal. He would seem to be entitled to be compensated by the Government, and creditors here are disposed to accept his offer.

THE ground taken by Mr. Blake on the Toronto Customs collectorship question, when it was up in the house the other day, was, that, as the office had been vacant for a year, either a collector is unnecessary or the been is not efficiently performed. The Minister of Customs intimated that the Government would fill the vacancy as soon as it thought it necessary to do so, from which it may be assumed that the necessity has not yet pressed itself upon the Government. The office has been vacant over twelve months. It seems to us that if the present staff be sufficient to transact the business to be done for that length of time an additional official is unnecessary. It is evident that the place is kept warm for somebody in the favour of the Government, or it would have been filled long ere this.

A GALVESTON clerk recently went to his employer, Old Twopercnt, and said to him.—"My uncle has arrived from the interior to spend Mardi Gras, and I would like to be excused from the store for a few hours, just to show him our Cotton Exchange, our harbor improvements, particularly those on the bar, and a few other natural advantages." Old Twopercnt got as mad as mischief. He scolded, stamped his foot, and bawled out—"Your pishness is in de store. You choost go away from de store and I docks your vages on de spot. You and your uncle can go to the devil togedder." "I am sorry," responded the clerk, demurely, "but if I don't see him he may buy his goods of some other house. He usually buys about \$10,000." "Is dot so?" said Old Twopercnt, smiling a smile saints might have envied. "Vy didn't yer tols me pefore, so I could meet him at the depot ven de train came in?"

A LARGE concern in London has stopped payment. Messrs T & J. Thompson began the hardware business in London as long ago as 1854, with a capital of £5,000. The business was managed by Thomas. John at that time keeping a store in Cobourg. In those days the firm affairs were conducted with a good deal of energy and good progress was made. In 1867 they claimed to have a surplus of \$50,000 and in their estimate this sum had increased in 1875 to \$80,000 or \$90,000. Since that time the firm's business and capital have decreased. Their account has been considered slow and un-