

against the action of either gasses or liquids thus giving the best of sanitary protection. As to the cost it is claimed that it costs no more than an ordinary granite pavement and once down can be kept in order for less expense than any other, the foundation being perpetual.—*Mississippi Valley Lumberman.*

Mice in Shoe Stores.

Mice often gnaw the edges of boots and shoes when they are put into stock. The top bands and facings are sometimes so much damaged in this manner as to render the boots and shoes totally unfit for sale. A dealer informed me the other day that he had a large quantity of goods spoiled in this way last winter, in spite of every effort to rid himself of these troublesome pests by traps, poisoning, etc. The loss is very considerable; boots which would otherwise realize the usual trade prices having to be sold to the "oddment" man at a considerable reduction. The reason why the mice nibble the edge of the boots is because they can smell the rye flour paste with which the boots are fitted. If the manufacturer would put a little bitter aloes into the paste when it is made, the mice will never nibble the edges of the boots again. They may come once, but a taste of the bitter principle in the aloes will prevent their depredation for the future. I would advise manufacturers to give this a trial.—*Leather Trade Chronicle.*

The Camera as a Detective.

The photographic art has of recent years performed a very useful service in the detection and apprehension of criminals. It was only a week ago that a sneak thief was caught in Chicago, who had attempted to rob a lady who was sitting for a photograph in a gallery, by means of an impression of his features taken by the faithful camera while he was in the very act. It is by means of photography that the pictures are obtained for the Rogues' Gallery, now considered an indispensable adjunct to every police and detective system. Still more skillful work than this is done in the exposure of forged hand-writing. In case of a defaulting clerk in a neighboring city, everything depended on showing that he had changed a figure 5 into a figure 3. A photograph of the altered figure was taken enlarged in a steropticon, and the crime proved beyond a doubt. The final verdict in the celebrated Cadet Whittaker case was based upon the result of a photographic representation of the "note of warning." The forgery of the Morey letter was proved in the same way.—*The Commercial Bulletin.*

Practical Consistency.

The seventh annual report of the Bureau of Labor and Statistics of the state of New Jersey has lately come to hand. It is a compilation of facts, figures and statements, which justify perusal at any time, and which deserves the consideration of all who are interested in industrial pursuit. But we have not made this reference for the purpose of complimenting the work and its undoubtedly valuable statistical character. We have found in it a story of con-

sistent living up to principle, which reflects honor upon those concerned in the act which it narrates, pointing a moral and supplying an episode to the work. It is often remarked, and it has become one of the tritest of quotations, that "consistency is a jewel." The rarity of such a jewel when its development is the result of sacrifice and a refusal to make money in what is ordinarily considered a legitimate business, gives additional value to the incident which we are about to quote. A well known firm engaged in the manufacture of labels and having a large working force, found that "the concentration of so many employees under one roof attracted the attention of several liquor dealers." The attraction led to the establishment of two saloons in close proximity to the works and the demoralizing effect of these saloons soon became apparent. The employers exerted themselves in public and in private to combat the evil, and met with a degree of success enlisting many of their employees in opposition to the rule of rum. But there was one feature of the firm's business which did not coincide with its precept, and that was the production of labels "to the extent of about twenty millions annually" for use in connection with the liquor business. It was suggested that it was "not fair to the hands to employ them upon work which contributed to the progress of the liquor traffic." The thought was logical, and the deductions therefrom positive. It was resolved to give up the production of such goods and to refuse to accept orders for any kind of printing designed to assist and increase the sale of liquors. This determination involved a sacrifice of about \$20,000, and yet the manufacturers referred to voluntarily submitted to it in deference to a principle which they sought to maintain. We do not intend to make too much of this act. It was proper; it was consistent and just; but it was a following up of precept by example, which if carried into every line of production and every kind of business would presage the millennium and the climax of commercial integrity. But why should we not attain this Climax? We do not believe that there is a reader of *The Stationer* who will not applaud this act; but even if it should be suggested that it was done as a bit of business policy, we can still commend it. In every line of trade there is room for the exercise of such a policy, and in different ways the stationery trade can help to impress upon the community, to its and their own benefit, the virtue of practising what they may preach.—*The American Stationer.*

Shrinkage all Round.

Manufacturers who are feeling "blue" over shrinkage in values, and all that sort of thing, may be comforted, in a way, by reflecting that the shrinkage is far more serious in some other departments of business than in theirs. During the last four years, there has been a great depreciation in sales of railway stocks and bonds in New York. Along with this there has been, let us remember, a shrinkage in market value of these securities that is perfectly enormous. It is far beyond anything known in manufacturing industries.

Respecting the phenomenal depreciation of values which has been going on during recent years, the truth of the matter is gradually unfolding itself to inquiring minds. It is not so much a depreciation of commodities as an appreciation of gold—the one commodity which the leading commercial nations have practically made the standard by which to measure the values of all others. This is especially true with regard to staple articles of many kinds, which are bought and sold by weight or measure. When we come to railway stocks and bonds, however, something else has to be added. These have suffered in two ways. First, from the simple fact that, owing to superior, quicker and cheaper means of construction and equipment, a better railway can now be finished off for fifty thousand dollars a mile than could have been done for a hundred thousand twenty-five or thirty years ago. That is to say, supposing the whole work to have been done, both then and now, honestly and capably, and with only reasonable rates of profit to those who did it and handled it all through. Ten million dollars will go as far in railway construction and equipment now as twenty million would have gone in 1855 or 1860; it is in fact a case of two to one in favor of the later date. Next, railway securities have been so "watered" that the real cost per mile, whatever that may have been, is nominally doubled or trebled in many instances. Net returns which would easily pay ten per cent. on actual cost, hardly suffice to pay four per cent. on the enormously inflated volume of watered stock. Hence, grumbling among shareholders, and tumbling of stock on the market.

Manufacturers generally may congratulate themselves that, bad as things are or may have been with them, they have not been the victims of any such extraordinary shrinkage as has happened in values of shares and amount of business done on the stock exchanges. Still, they would be well advised to have their eyes open against fictitious values, however promoted. As we said not long ago—"beware of the boom." It is the light and airy "boom" of to-day that brings on the "dull thud" and the rattling crash of to-morrow. *The Canadian Manufacturer.*

General Notes.

The reports of a dozen banks in Quebec and Ontario have been issued. All but one tell of diminished earnings on the year ended with May last. Taking a group of nine, whose net profits were in 1882-3, say 13.75 per cent. on aggregate capital of about \$30,000,000, the figure fell to 11.38 per cent. in 1883-4 and to 10.77 last year.

The rapid increase of tobacco manufacture in this country is worth noting. Last year 3,466,309,017 cigars and 994,334,000 cigarettes were made in the United States alone, requiring over 91,000,000 pounds of leaf. In 1872 not 40,000,000 pounds were used. The vast bulk of tobacco, however, is consumed in "other manufactures," which required 217,451,000 pounds in 1884.