

On Wednesday evening was successfully cast, at the works of Messrs. John Bertram & Sons, Dundas, one of the largest pieces probably ever moulded in the Dominion, consisting of a bed plate for a planing machine for the Wm. Hamilton Manufacturing Company, Peterborough. This bed is thirty feet long, and the machine when finished will take in work six feet square. Between eight and nine tons of metal were poured into the mould. It speaks well for the firm that they never lost a large cast, and this last undertaking went off without a hitch.

A PROMINENT representative of one of the largest steel rail mills in Pennsylvania is reported to have said that he had sold rails during the past week for \$36, but, expecting higher prices, had stopped taking any more orders. It is stated that the quantity of steel rails already sold in the United States for delivery in 1887 is sufficient to lay about 7,700 miles of single track, calculating on the average requirements of rails weighing 60 to 65 lbs. to the yard. The *New York Commercial Bulletin* states that this total, while representing not over 50 per cent. of the entire probable production the coming year, is quite equal to the entire make in England last year. If the estimates of leading rail manufacturers are not at fault, 15,000 miles of single track will need new rails in 1887, and if that proves to be correct, and prices are kept down to the proper point, the output in the United States next year will be close upon last year's entire foreign production.

FROM Philadelphia we hear of a new and important development in the controversy between the green-glass manufacturers and the blowers, over the abolition of the apprentice system. On Monday night (Nov. 29th), meetings of the local assemblies of glass-blowers were held in Clayton, Millville, Salem, Woodbury, Williamstown and Glassboro, N.J., when it was decided that they would not strike as ordered by the Executive Board of District Assembly No. 149, Knights of Labor, but would surrender their charters rather than do so. These blowers are working with apprentices under a reduction in wages of 5 per cent., according to agreement made with manufacturers some weeks ago. The charters of the six assemblies were sent to General-Secretary Litchman on Tuesday. It is stated that these assemblies purpose forming a new association. On the other hand, the officers of District Assembly 149 declare that these blowers, numbering between 500 and 600, will be ostracised and black-listed by all members of the league in good standing, and will not be allowed to work outside the limits of their own town.

THE following is the latest from Amsterdam, N.Y., regarding the great strike in the knitting mills:—The chief incidents in the labor troubles there are the arrival of T. Barry and the opening of one of the mills which has remained closed since the general shut down by McDowell & Co., resuming operations with a small force in the picking and carding rooms. The employees are all non-unionists. Nine young men who came to the city with the intention of going to work in the mills were returned to their homes in New-England recently by the Knights of Labor, who intercepted them. The manufacturers boast that they have turned away applicants for work enough to fill their mills twice over. But a certain class of

experienced workmen are needed in the mills. The finishing and seaming departments in the factories now in operation employ the usual number of hands, but spinners and knitters are not so easily obtained. A meeting of Knights of Labor was held Monday. Before the hour announced for the meeting Main street was crowded for two blocks. The house, which accommodates 1,200, the hall and sidewalk were blocked. The meeting was the largest one ever held in the neighborhood. The principal discourse was delivered by Thomas Barry, who was successful in bringing about a settlement at Cohoes in March. The manufacturers, though refusing to treat with the other members of the order at different times, have conferred with Barry. The soundness of the latter's utterances has gained for him the esteem of the manufacturers and of the Knights of Labor. He denounced the strike of the nine spinners, which originated the lock-out, as uncalled for, since the man they refused to work with was a Knight. District Master Workman Cummins, who was prominent in the strike, explained that he did not order the strike, but that the spinners went out of their own accord.

MILLING NOTES.

(Indianapolis Millstone.)

WE hear of millers who have visited different mills, and who are impressed favorably or otherwise with what they saw. For instance a man is thinking about building a mill. He visits a number of establishments, and in some of them is very much pleased with what he sees. He comes back saying that the flour is of a fine quality, and in every way the mill is doing well. Opinions formed as the result of personal observation in the mill, without careful comparative examination, are useless. The best judges of flour in our largest markets do not attempt to decide as to the value or quality of flour except by comparative examination. The best judges of flour are the buyers and dealers, and not the millers. A buyer or dealer in flour sees a great many different kinds of flour, and sees and understands the wants of the trade better than does the miller.

RECENTLY we have had brought to us quite conspicuously the great danger from spontaneous combustion. In one case a servant who had been oiling an oak floor left the cloth used for this purpose under a sink while she was preparing dinner. Time, about one hour, when the presence of great heat was noticed. An examination of the cloth showed that it was nearly ignited. It was shrivelled and drawn together, as a woollen cloth acts when about to give forth a blaze. The floor under it was blackened with heat, and the varnish on the base board scorched. A few minutes's absence from the room and the cause of the fire would have been destroyed and the building in flames, and it would have been suggested, in all probability, that it was the work of an incendiary. Another case was in a shed which connected an engine-room with a mill. An untidy miller covered a water pipe in a trench with manure, and laid a board over it. It had been there about a day when this board and some connecting lumber were noticed to be in a blaze, caused from the combustion of the manure. If this had happened at night when there was no one about the premises, there would have been more talk of incendiarism.

AN English inventor claims that the grip of a pulley on belting may be increased by covering the pulley with a thin, perforated metallic cover, fastened by screws, rivets or solder. Among other advantages, it is said that the strength of the pulley is materially increased, the hold of the belt improved, and it is possible to run with slacker belts. But people here say that nothing holds its grip on the belt equal to the Dodge Wood Split Pulley.