

WATCHMAKING in France is a great business. According to M. Saunier the yearly production of watches in France is as follows, by centres of manufacture: Besancon, 24,000,000; Paris, 23,000,000; some small centres of production, such as Trois Fontaines, 1,500,000; Morez and neighbourhood, 4,000,000; Saint Nicholas d'Allermont, 1,500,000; Beaucourt, Montbéliard-Selincourt, 9,000,000; Cluses, 1,500,000; total, 64,500,000. Where do they all go?

A SCHOONER of ninety-two tons cleared at Halifax on 16th inst. for Victoria, B.C., with one hundred and ten casks, fifty-five cases whisky, twenty-two tons coal, ten cases preserved milk, and a lot of lumber and other building materials. For want of a canal at the Isthmus of Panama she is obliged to sail around Cape Horn, and expects to make her voyage of 20,000 miles in about five months.

THE late president of the Maritime Bank was released from the custody of the authorities in which he was held at the instance of the liquidators, and immediately departed for the United States to avoid re-arrest or any other contingency. The banking firm of Maclellan & Co., St. John, are expected soon to pay their first dividend, as the period allowed for creditors to take advantage of the deed of assignment expired on the 13th instant.

Advices from England are against our fishery shipments as well as lumber, says the Chatham, N.B. *World*. Old and poor stocks of lobsters have injured the prospects of this year's packing. Only 12s. 6d. per box in some cases is offered. New lobsters are 18s. to 19s. per case. The lobster packing, says one authority, "ought to be stopped for three years to bring back our valuable trade; this would enable all the old packing to be cleaned out."

VARLEY & SMITH did not enter upon the manufacture of yarn at London West under very promising circumstances. Their capital was inadequate and the mill that they undertook to operate was never successful. Their brief experience has resulted in failure. When J. D. Hayhurst failed in the grocery business at Palmerston some years ago he found it necessary to substitute his wife's name for his own. The change has not, however, helped matters. She has now assigned. —W. Irvine, a dealer in tins at Peterboro, always bore the reputation of being slow pay. He has assigned to the sheriff. —B. J. Hickie, of Uxbridge, is another general trader who, three years ago, found it necessary to conduct business in his wife's name. It would not be necessary to recall this circumstance but for the second failure just announced.

DULL trade and sickness are no doubt mainly responsible for the present troubles of Chas. Conrad, a dealer in lumber at St. Thomas. He has arranged a compromise at 25 cents on the dollar. —In 1884, W. H. Scott opened a jeweller store at Cobourg with one Morrow. It is said that their relations were not of the most pleasant nature, and in November last they dissolved. In order to settle with Morrow, the creditors were obliged to grant Scott an extension of eighteen months, but an assignment is now announced. —Since A. C. MacKenzie, a general trader at Durham, failed in 1884, the business has been done in his wife's name. Now she has sought relief in an assignment to Fred. H. Lamb, of Hamilton. —No reason is given for the assignment of Geo. Willis, a grain dealer at Exeter. He has been in business there for five years, was supposed to have made good progress, and was held in excellent repute.

MANY persons have doubtless noticed of late the marked improvement imparted to the exterior of brick dwellings and warehouses by the introduction of ornamental medallions, crestring, panels, etc., in terra cotta. The large demand for these articles has resulted in the formation of a company in this city known as the Canadian Terra Cotta Company. It has a capital of \$200,000 and has acquired one hundred acres of land the clay of which is said to be particularly well adapted to the manufacture of terra cotta designs. A tastefully printed catalogue furnishes ample evidence of the varied nature of these ornamentations. If the claims of the promoters are realized large profits will result from this venture.

BONUSING MANUFACTURES.

The practice of bonusing manufactures rests upon the belief that it is worth while for a municipality to pay for the establishment of a particular kind of industry, in the city, town or village. Precisely where there payment comes in, probably no one has ever thought of examining with exactness. The conclusion is jumped at that, if so many men are employed, it will be a good bargain to grant a given amount of bonus. No one has attempted to lay down any rule of equivalents; to establish a fixed proportion between the bonus and the number of hands employed. All is haphazard; ordinarily, each bonus-hunter gets what he can and gives as little as he may, beginning with promises more or less liberal.

These bonuses operate unequally; the whole population of a municipality cannot be bonus-ed, and the citizens become divided into bonus-payers and bonus-receivers. Some of the payers receive no benefit from the expenditure; they have to carry on their own business on the strength of their own resources, and it may be of a kind that will not increase with the population of the municipality. People who live on inexpressive incomes gain nothing and lose in increased taxes by the bonus expenditure. Besides the direct recipient, a bonus can benefit only a small portion of the population that bears the burthen. And even the recipient is by no means always a gainer. Manufactures are most profitably conducted on a large scale. The bonus-hunter is generally a man who operates on a comparatively small scale. His want of individual capital causes him to seek municipal aid; and when he gets it he finds it difficult to compete with rivals who control larger amounts of capital; the bonus seldom puts him on a level with them, and in spite of the adventitious aid which he got his enterprise flags, at first, and then dies. When this happens, the municipalities lose their money.

At last there are signs of a revolt against this unsound system. Mr. John Cowan, mayor of the town of Oshawa, has resigned his mayorship rather than sanction what he conceived to be an improvident bonus. We may expect further protests of a similar kind against a vicious practice. The bonus, in so far as it teaches its receivers to depend upon something besides legitimate competition for success, gives a misdirection to energy and creates a false reliance. It costs time, and money too, to get a bonus, so that all is not clear gain. A legitimate source of profit is a perennial spring; but the bonus once lost, and part of it is liable to vanish in the getting, is renewed no more. A place that will give the largest bonuses will find the largest number of takers; but it may not offer the most suitable site for the manufacture, and it is pretty certain not to be the

best point of distribution. Men with adequate capital of their own with which to set up as manufacturers avoid these drawbacks: they seek out the most suitable sites and the best points of distribution. The bonus-ed industries have often to work against nature, and it is not surprising if fate soon declares against them. The sooner the system comes to an end, the greater will be the relief from losses from which all concerned are liable to suffer.

AN ENVELOPE COMBINATION.

The New York *Times* gives particulars of a combination among the envelope makers of the United States to raise prices to a paying standard. It was arranged at a meeting in Springfield, Mass., in June, and went into operation 1st July, but its terms have only just leaked out, it appears. Since the collapse in 1881 of the Standard Envelope Co.—itself a combination—envelopes have been sold at whatever could be got for them, so the makers were unhappy and the profits of even jobbers and retailers irregular. The new "combine" is a virtual repetition of the old.

It appears that there are about twenty important envelope-manufacturing concerns in the United States and eight or ten smaller ones, principally in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania. These employ machinery of a maximum productive capacity of about 20,000,000 envelopes per day. The consumption in the United States is about 8,000,000, and there is an export trade of about half a million per day. The facilities for over-production being so great as the above figures show, low prices were to be looked for, competition having, as it usually does, gone foolish lengths in terms and prices. In December last an effort was made towards getting makers to regulate the production, and meetings were held about once a month. Finally it was agreed that if fourteen makers would agree to combine, organization should be effected and the pool be put in operation for five years. This was accomplished and these concerns signing the agreement: White, Corbin & Co., Whitcomb Envelope Co., Plimpton Manufacturing Co., Wade H. Hill, Morgan Envelope Co., Holyoke Envelope Co., Powers Paper Co., Logan, Swift & Brigham Envelope Co., J. Q. Preble & Co., Berlin & Jones Envelope Co., Samuel Raynor & Co., P. P. Kellogg & Co., Springfield Envelope Co., and Wolf Brothers. One of the concerns is in Philadelphia, three in New York, two in Connecticut, and the others in Massachusetts. They represent 90 per cent. of the productive capacity of the whole country, control all the machinery and patents for envelope manufacture. The one inevitable exception exists in a Philadelphia manufacturer whose capacity is about 1,000,000 a day.

Members of the pool are restricted in their output and tied down to the pool price list under penalties of \$250 for each offense and 25 cents per 1,000 envelopes sold under pool rates. It is further given discretionary authority to declare any particular city or State "open market," for a certain period, within which "open market" manufacturers are privileged during its continuance to sell envelopes for whatever prices they please. The object of this provision is to give the pool power to keep outside manufacturers within bounds.

The increase in prices under the new list is from 5 to 15 cents per thousand in commercial sizes and from 15 to 25 cents per thousand in Government sizes. Mr. Martin, of Samuel Raynor & Co., of New York, thinks that the rise would not affect the retail price at all.