

beyond the amount received for sending the same." The message sent by plaintiff was un-repeated, and the only negligence shown was an unexplained delay in delivering the message on the part of a messenger boy to whom it was immediately upon its receipt intrusted for delivery. The court held that, under the circumstances, the plaintiff was entitled to recover only the amount paid for sending the message with interest.—*Bradstreet's*.

Preservation of Cast Iron.

The common practice of painting the unfinished portion of machines is not very attractive, and that of making all cast iron of some uniform color for all machines is almost offensive. In most cases the use of paint on the cast iron is intended to make a contrast between the unfinished material and the polished parts; incidentally, it is to prevent oxidation and a blotchy appearance. But if oxidation is general and even permanent, nothing could be finer, for the red oxide of iron is even more agreeable to the eye than the blue green oxide of copper or bronze, which is so much admired. There is no question about the durability and the permanency of iron oxide in color and texture any more than of bronze or brass; the browned gun barrels of fowling pieces are instances. Experiments have been made to prevent the daily annoyance of paint by less mechanical means. The cast iron, after being pickled to remove the scale, was left to dry with the acid still on it. Then it was cleared with a wire brush and scraped with a coarse file. The result was a mottled surface, the lower portion being a greyish brown and the upper portion bright. The surface was then swabbed with crude petroleum, and before it was dry was rubbed with a wire brush. Such treatment ensures an changeable surface and gives an agreeable color. Even without the petroleum the rust of the acid ensures a very pleasing and permanent affect; but the petroleum prevents afterstains and mellows and blends the tints. In either way used it is an improvement on paint. Cast iron has a beauty of its own that is no more dependent on paint than that of bronze or brass. *Chicago Journal of Commerce*.

A Unique Water Power.

Julius J. Wood, an old citizen of Columbus, O., who has been running a starch mill and other enterprises for years, has put in water power for a small flour mill which has no parallel so far as known in this or any other country. It is to be run from the water that is constantly pouring down the steep descent of the Broad street sewer. A trap has been placed in the sewer, through which a portion of the stream is deflected southward along past the corner of an old warehouse. A turbine wheel is to be placed on the level of the river, which will be driven from the two foot streams taken from the sewer. This power will be utilized in running a mill and for such other purposes as may be convenient. It is estimated that the water collected from thousands of taps, in as many houses above, will make the supply as unfailing as that of any spring fed mill stream ever utilized.

John W. Bookwalter, of Springfield, has

been consulted about the plan and says that it is perfectly feasible. If it succeeds as expected, the power supplied from the sewer will be fully equal to what would cost \$100 a month, if the same were run by steam. The sewer, as it came down the considerable decline in Broad from High, sets a great velocity and would alone give a powerful head to a turbine water wheel; but this cannot all be utilized, owing to the necessity of passing the water through a trap, to keep the wheel free from foreign obstacles. The old building in which the queer water power is to be utilized, was once the leading freight and passenger depot in the city, but that was many years ago, while canals were in their prime and railways unknown.—*Northwestern Miller*.

Manitoba Wheat Grades.

The *Northwestern Miller*, of Minneapolis, has formed the opinion that we have a variety of systems for grading grain in Manitoba, but is slightly mistaken. There is but one set of grain standards in the province, and that is contained in the Dominion Inspection Act, and these have been adopted by the Winnipeg Board of Trade. The C.P.R. may carry on a kind of inspection at Port Arthur, but it is Ontario and not Manitoba inspection. We quote the *Miller's* remarks:

"Until this year there has been no standard of wheat inspection in Manitoba, but now there are three in force, the Government have defined one in an act of the legislature, the Winnipeg Board of Trade another, while the Canadian Pacific railway has a system of its own, issuing receipts which do not name grades, but describe the quality of the wheat received. It is always in order for farmers to grumble about inspection, and this triple headed system gives them more ground than those of any other country enjoy for exercising their privilege. It is hardly necessary to say that such a complication will speedily work its own destruction and that not more than two years will pass before one standard will regulate the trade of the province.

A Large Weighing Machine.

Henry Pooley & Son, of Glasgow and Liverpool, have just turned out a weighing machine of exceptionally heavy capacity. It is on the suspension principle, and has been specially designed for weighing marine boilers and heavy castings, for J. & G. Thompson, shipbuilders and engineers, Clydebank. The knife-edges and bearings are of extra fine cast steel, made specially for this purpose, and the other parts are of best steel or Lowmore iron. The breaking strain is calculated at 1,400 tons, and the machine has been tested at Lloyd's up to 120 tons. After testing, the machine was taken to pieces, and all the knife edges and bearings were found quite sharp and un-injured—a proof of the fine quality of the steel employed. The machine is suspended from the shears by a massive band of solid steel weighing 15½ cwt., and the lower link and crosshead, from which the articles to be weighed are suspended, weigh 13 cwt. The levers and other working parts are all of the finest steel, and are enclosed in a waterproof box of great strength. The steel-yard, or index lever, is also enclosed in a water proof box, fitted with folding doors, and is graduated up to 100 tons, without loose weights. This part of the machine is nickel-plated to prevent rust.—*Ironmonger*.

Correspondence

CREDIT AND COMMERCE.

To the Editor of the Commercial.

SIR,—An article in THE COMMERCIAL of 12th inst., under heading "Abusing Credit" is deserving the attention of every business man in the Northwest. While in perfect sympathy with the view of the subject as expressed, I think the writer should have stated where credit should cease and where the interests of "credit and commerce" take different paths. I refer to the general system of credit as customary between the retailer and the consumer, and my conclusion is based on the premise that where credit reduces the assets of commerce credit should cease to be a partner.

Commerce can be encouraged in its successive stages between the manufacturer or the producer, the middleman, the wholesale dealer, the retailer by a judicious system of credit, the cause each in his turn (provided the retailer sells for cash) has a certain asset to set against his liability.

When commerce, encouraged by a general round of credit, reaches the consumer the asset ceases and the retailer, the wholesale dealer, the middleman and the manufacturer or producer is each in his turn dependent for his return on the prospect of the laborer, the mechanic or the community in which their goods are consumed.

The retailer should, therefore, continue his sales to cash or an equivalent, because,

1st. He has not the safeguard against him provided the wholesale dealer by banks, exchanges, mercantile agencies, etc., of ascertaining the responsibility of the consumer.

2nd. By extending to the consumer a credit, if even for one month only, he encourages the consumer to live one month ahead of his income and to use the money that should be reserved to meet his monthly accounts for speculative speculations based upon "over sanguine calculations upon the results of the future." Should these calculations prove incorrect the consumer receives from the retailer, who is anxious to retain the account, an invitation to leave an amount open until the following month, i. e. this amount which is an asset of "credit and commerce" is an asset only on paper.

3rd. As long as the retailer knows the consumer to be an honest man he will be satisfied with the excuse that the contractor, or the firm manufacturer, or the mill owner, or the employer "has not paid this month" or "has short of funds," and will leave the account open until next month, thereby encouraging the employer of labor to indirectly borrow wages due to his men without giving them security, and as is sometimes the result the employer of labor fails to pay his men and the amount due the laborer which is an asset of "credit and commerce," fades away.

I need not mention the advantage of the retailer has over the credit retailer. This point has already been fully discussed. The retailer who sells for cash is a profitable partner in a firm of "credit and commerce." The credit retailer is an unprofitable load for the partner to carry.

Yours truly,

Rat Portago, 25th Nov., 1884.

CASE.