

printed the desired color on them in the usual way. For a long time the engravers and banks tried to get a color that could not be obliterated, but the counterfeiters' chemists beat them hollow, until at length a Canadian, Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, invented a peculiar colour which no re-agents in any way effect and which cannot be washed off or discharged by any process which will not also quite discharge the black. This is the Green Color now known as the "Canada Bank Note Printing Tint" and which has given the name "greenbacks" to the American currency, an indelible green ink, which, when used on the face of the notes, is an effectual guard against photographic counterfeits or alterations, by making a conjunction of two inks of different colors, one of which cannot be removed without the other.

The printing process is by no means easy to explain. The bank note printing press is very different from that from which this newspaper is ushered into the world. It is a simple cylinder, worked by the aid of four long levers backwards and forwards over a bed on which the engraved plate is laid. The printer first rubs in ink into the sunken lines of the plate with rollers—such ink being of the finest quality, intensely black, and without a particle of grit—then with his naked hand dipped in a little whiting cleans off the surplus, no machine or implement having yet been found equal to the human hand for this, and places the plate upon the press. An attendant—almost invariably a girl—puts the paper upon the plate; the man turns the cylinder, and the girl removes the note, when the whole process is repeated. Each note passes three times through the press. First the backs are printed, then the green on the face, then the face in black. As each sheet comes off the press, it is placed between the leaves of a blank book, to prevent its getting blurred, and sent to a separate department to be dried before being printed on again.

All this is never done without careful counting at each stage of the proceeding. The number of sheets of paper given to each pressman is known. He counts them on receiving them, and must give back just so many and no more before he leaves his work. He watches the fingers of the attendant girl, the girl watches his. The superintendent of the drying room counts the sheets received from the presses, and the pressman counts them when sent back dried. Finally, the notes come down to the numbering and trimming machines, where they are numbered by machinery, and beautiful and costly machinery it is too and lastly tied up after examination in parcels of consecutive thousands. From first to last there is thus a cat-like surveillance; very little trusting to honesty; nothing taken for granted. The mere printing of bank notes is not a new thing in Canada; it has been carried on for the last 18 years, by Mr. George Matthews, and afterwards by his successors Messrs. Burland Lafricain & Co. of this city, and they say that in all this time but one \$2 sheet went astray, which was speedily traced by their system of checks to the guilty party, the notes restored, and the girl punished by imprisonment. This is something to be proud of, when we consider that their issues must have been very many millions!

We now come to another branch of our subject, the recent establishment of a complete bank note engraving establishment in Canada. There are very few engraving companies in the world. At present there are, we believe, but two in the United States, and of these but one, the American Bank Note Company, is well known here. The capital required, it will now be understood, is large; the skilled labour of all kinds, from that of the artist engravers to the printers' girl-attendant difficult to obtain. Formerly, although the Canadian Banks insisted and rightly insisted on having the plates of their notes kept in Canada and printed here, they were, at least in great part, engraved by the American Bank Note Company. So were the debentures issued by the government, and many of their stamps; the balance being executed in England. But the risk attending transit, the chance of trouble with the Fenians, and no doubt several other reasons induced the government to have their engraving done under the eyes of their own officers at Ottawa; and a company, consisting of men of special eminence in the various branches of the art obtained, in connection with the above named Montreal firm, a contract for the execution of the work. But the government work alone is not sufficient to maintain so large and extensive a company as this must be, and we think the various Banks of the country may fairly be asked to give it, as a Canadian enterprise, their undivided support. We are pleased to find that the Canadian Bank of Commerce has done so, and

the notes, we think, must give them satisfaction. There is this moreover to be said, that the companies in the United States have not the right to use in Canada the patent green or other colours based on the invention of Dr. Sterry Hunt, which belongs to the British American Bank Note Company exclusively. We think we notice some bills in circulation which have the common green upon them. "Ware hawk," we say. Do the managers of the institution we allude to think that the sharpers do not look closer to these matters than we do, and that they are not likely even now at work, photographing a bill of theirs from which they have removed this insufficient protection? Is the slight extra cost of the Canada Green to be for a moment seriously weighed against the injury both to the bank and to the public of such an announcement as the following:—"Counterfeits of the \$5 bills of the ——— Bank are in circulation; exceeding 7 well executed so that they have deceived officers of various banks, and were only discovered by the ——— Bank itself when on cancelling No. 34/24, it was discovered that a note bearing that number had been defaced a few days previously?"

There is, in addition to procuring for ourselves the safety, convenience and comparative independence of having an Engraving Establishment in our own country, ready to execute Bank Notes, Debentures for Municipal Corporations or Railways, illustrations for books, &c., &c., this further cause for sustaining the company we allude to; viz., that we are raising up amongst us a sort of school of Art. Hitherto, lads with an artistic turn of mind, and girls who were clever at drafting or designing, have had to go to the States to gratify their ruling tastes. It is now no longer so. Already there are several young apprentices at work in the studio and the ateliers of the British American Bank Note Company. Already the talents of such artists as there are in Canada have been put in requisition to design vignettes for the company's use—illustrations of Canadian industry and scenery—such as we hope to see in future on all the official documents of the government and the corporations of the Dominion. We notice in a recent issue of Government debentures the noble facade of the Parliamentary buildings at Ottawa. On the Provincial hundreds we have Her Majesty as she was in her youth; on the Bank of Commerce five as she is now, in mature age. On one \$2 note we see the Allan steamship "Hibernian." On another the Capitoline Hill at the seat of government. On other notes of the same bank, vignettes and lathe work of great beauty and excellence. And so national Art is growing up—like our summer vegetation, quickly but rapidly. It is for the public to see that it be not nipped by chilling neglect, as that vegetation is by winter frost. For though we hope it will eventually be like our own maple, careless of the hardness of our climate, and able to hold its own in the struggle for life without tactitious aid, yet it must be remembered that even the hardy maple needs protection when first transplanted, and that without fostering care at first, the magnificent trees that adorn our city would not have survived the first twelve months' trials.

We would fain write more on this and kindred topics suggested by the subject, (as much out of proportion, by the way, to the slight error of our London confrere, yet as directly traceable to it as the giant of the Arabian nights was to the small bottle the fisherman chanced to open on the strand), but we fear we have exhausted the patience of our readers, and we conclude, though abruptly, here.

FARMING PROSPECTS.

THE country at present looks beautiful! Nature is now arrayed in her summer apparel, and presents a spectacle at once pleasing to the eye, enlivening to the mind, and flattering to the spectator's hopes. The fair Province of Ontario, which, before another issue, will have become the chief pillar of our new Confederacy, never looked more beautiful than at the present time. In those parts which the writer has seen of it, and he has had good opportunity of late, the fields never looked greener, the forests more luxuriant in foliage, the waters more limpid. In the well-cleared sections, the scenery begins to remind one of the prettiest districts of England and France, the stumps are gone, new and handsome fences abound, fine houses strike the eye at every turn, and better than all, the fields abound with evidences that the science of husbandry is becoming better understood and more commonly practised.

As the crops generally must look promising when

the face of nature appears so fair, we need scarcely add, that the chances of a good harvest were seldom better than just now. The prospects of the farmers are nearly as bright as the beams of the great orb of day. Almost every species of crop looks well. Those sown this spring have come up well, and promise an abundant return, should nothing unforeseen occur; the breadth of land sown, too, is very little, if any, short of the average quantity, notwithstanding the prognostications of many that the unusual lateness of the spring would render it difficult for the farmers to sow as largely as usual. The meadows are exceedingly luxuriant. The clover has been out in flower for some time, and stands upon the ground so thick that there is now a certainty that the hay crop will be unusually abundant.

The fall wheat is out in ear, and the heads are rapidly filling up. The prospect at present is, that the crop will be slightly above the average, although we hardly think the great expectations expressed in some quarters will be realised, taking Ontario as a whole. This crop came through the winter in good order, but the cold, damp weather during April and part of May, inflicted considerable damage. Many of the weaker plants died in unsheltered fields, and here and there throughout the country there are fields pretty badly thinned out. Others again are quite as luxuriant as the hay fields, and if they manage to escape the insect pests which generally assail them before ripening, they will certainly gladden the farmer's heart with a yield seldom surpassed. Taking the good and middling together, the present indications are that the crop will be a little above rather than below the average. In many sections the farmers have got their turnips in, and at the time of writing, rain is urgently needed. No damage of any consequence has yet resulted, and doubtless the drouth will not continue much longer.

Ontario is getting to be a large producer of fruit compared with what it used to be. Not so long ago but it can be remembered well, New York State claimed a monopoly in first-class fruit, but that day has gone past. Many of the orchards of that state have begun to fail, whilst this country, on the other hand, has of late largely increased and improved its fruit culture. The orchards of Ontario at present promise well. Seldom have we seen a greater profusion of blossoms than during this spring, and up to this time, the young fruit has escaped any serious injury. We think there is every prospect that of all kinds of fruit there will be at least an average supply.

During the past two weeks, the farmers of Ontario have been busy shearing their flocks and bringing their wool to market. Throughout the leading towns along the principal lines of travel, very large quantities of wool were purchased towards the close of last week. Prices have ranged a little higher than some manufacturers and commission men anticipated, and a little lower than the rates which the farming community have received of late years; in other words, prices have been pretty fair, running neither very high nor very low. The general figure has been 80c per lb.—in some cases where the competition among buyers was brisk or the quality superior, the sunny side has been reached, and when these circumstances were lacking, the shady one has had to be submitted to. The extent of the clip this year is larger than usual if reports are to be credited, and as to quality, buyers speak very favourably. Indeed, it would be strange if there was not a progressive increase this season as to quantity and quality, for wool growing has become one of the farmer's most profitable undertakings.

To conclude; farming prospects in Ontario look bright at present. There is no part of the crops which can be called a failure. The poorest of them promise a fair return, whilst others were seldom ever so luxuriant before. There are a good many dangers, it is true, yet to encounter before harvest; some of these may partially blight the fair promise before us. But it is gratifying to know that, should nothing unforeseen occur, we are sure of an average harvest, and may have an unusually good one.

COMMERCIAL BANK.—Yesterday the Annual Meeting of the Commercial Bank took place at the Banking House in this city. There was a good deal of discussion, but the three chief events were the postponement of any action on certain Milwaukee Bonds until next meeting; the declaration of a Dividend of Three per cent; and the choice of three new Directors. The Directors elected are Messrs. J. Cartwright, J. Hartly, the Hon. John A. Macdonald, C. F. Gilderleeve, L. Hutton, H. Allan, and A. Morris. The last three are new Directors.—*Kingston News.*