who can see beyond their door step. With these three great undertakings always present to our thoughts: with the energies of our people directed to their accomplishment, we shall not fail to secure them in good time.

There are other methods of adding to our commerce that might be indicated, but we prefer to point the thoughts of the people of St. John exclusively to these projects, which are of commanding importance, which are feasible, which, if accomplished, will lift St. John head and shoulders above any other port in the Dominion of Canada and class us among the great ports of the world. Our merchants, our manufacturers, our capitalists, can do much to aid in securing the commercial advantages we have described: we bid them go forward and do their utmost, in whatever line of duty they may occupy, to help forward movements which cannot but redound to the prosperity of St. John and its people.

A Wheat Monopoly in California.

Mr. J. A. Gardner, General Agent of the California State Grange, alleges that there exists in that State a monopoly, the particulars of which ought to rest upon something more than his mere assertion. He states that a Mr. Isaac Friedlander, backed up with large capital, has gained control of the milling, freight, sack and transportation interests, has divided the State into sections, in each of which a buyer is stationed, and has entangled the farmer by charging him excessive interest on money loaned, enormous prices for sacks and double cost for storage. On an advance of foreign markets his agents stop buying temporarily and the farmer is made confused in regard to values. Then notes, due one day after date, and store bills are presented, and when the time comes that Friedlander wants to buy, his victims are compelled to sell. Friendlander also gets command of all the river frontage that he can where wheat is raised. Wheat, in these sections, unless sold when wanted, is allowed to accumulate in vast quantities until fear of rains or of ever getting transportation has induced the farmer to yield to the market got up for him. If the farmer goes to the city to sell his grain, the commission men, ascertaining on whose landing it lies, refuse to buy, knowing that all impediments possible will be placed in the way of shipping. Mr. Gardner asserts that these are facts. If so, they certainly show badly. But Mr. Gardner may possibly be a little blinded by a too intense sympathy for the farmer. At any rate, the other side ought to be heard before judgment is passed.

There will likely be a short crop of tobacco this year. In North Carolina there has been less planted than usual, while in Virginia flies eat the young plant.

Ring Pavements.

Pennsylvania avenue, well known as the great central thoroughfare of Washington, was paved with wood, against the remonstrance of many property owners and citizens, at the close of November, 1870, by the Ring contractors, who a few months after came into complete power, with Cooke and Shepherd as the masters of the new government created by the act of Feb. 21, 1871.

That was their first experience on the large scale, and the immense profits derived from this job gave them a taste for the plunder which followed, and has thrown Tweed and his crew entirely into the shade. The people were charged at the rate of $4 a square yard for a pavement which everybody knew at the time did not cost one-half that money.

About three and a half years have passed away since these blocks were laid down, and including the repairs and charges, which have been frequent and expensive during that time, the whole cost is estimated at half a million of dollars in round numbers. This avenue has never been subject to stain, hard wear, or weighty traffic of any kind. There is more heavy draught in a single day upon any one of the streets between Chambers and the Battery in this city than on Pennsylvania avenue in a whole month.

Yet this avenue is now in a rotten condition, and has been so for a year past, in spite of patching. In fact it is so bad that the new Commissioners have advertised for proposals to take up the entire north side and replace the wood with concrete, by which a new expense, in addition to all the other burdens, will be levied on the taxpayers.

This is the beginning of the end. In the next year or two, the whole system of wood pavements, which have cost the people of Washington many millions of dollars, will have rotted out, and must be removed for sanitary reasons, if there were no other. In many cases they will have been put down and taken up before the sign of an improvement has approached the outlying districts, where this rubbish was scattered far and wide beyond the limits of actual or needed settlement.

These wood pavements were adopted upon an enormous scale, because the arbitrary prices allowed by the Ring and the exclusion of competition furnished a wide margin for Addition, Division, and Silence. The cost was $1.40 and the price $3.50. They were hurried through in the most reckless manner, because Shepherd and his confederates well knew that if the ordinary rules of prudence and honesty were observed in adapting the improvements to the resources of the community, one street would be rotten before another could be finished, and that their whole game would thus be exposed and exploded.

The aim of the Ring chiefs was to make a large fortune for themselves in the shortest space of time, and to rush everything through at the most desperate pace, so that the frauds would not be discovered until they had filled their pockets and were beyond the reach of retributive justice. The recent investigation deranged their schemes very seriously, and the penitentiary may yet claim some of the President's intimates. Juries are getting to be less manageable at the capital.--*New Yor Sun.*

Failure in the Cotton Trade.

The *Liverpool Albion* says:--"On Monday afternoon business in the cotton market was put into the background somewhat by the announcement that Messrs S. B. Gaskell & Brother had been compelled to suspend their payments. Messrs. Gaskell have been in business as cotton merchants for about twenty-five years, and during the whole period they have been held in the highest esteem on 'Change. Their unexpected failure, therefore, has occasioned universal regret, and great sympathy is expressed for them in their difficulties. A few years ago the house was substantially wealthy: but as is explained in the circular issued to the creditors, the 'firm has been much weakened during the past eighteen months by a series of losses through importing and speculating in cotton, and from bad debts.' These losses were being gradually met by realisations of the private assets of the partners, and no serious difficulty was apprehended. But--'A new and unlooked-for blow has, however, fallen upon us in the shape of a large shipment of cotton, classed and drawn for us "middling," and which turns out to be "low ordinary," and this not only involves a further heavy loss, but being generally known about, has so seriously injured our credit that our name has been several times refused in the market during the past week, and unusual pressure brought to bear upon us for overdue payments. Our credit being thus so much impaired, we could not hope to carry on our business satisfactorily without greater help than would otherwise have sufficed, and the increased amount needed our friends have this morning finally refused to advance. The liabilities of the firm are stated to be about £96,000, of which £70,000 are secured, and £26,000 unsecured. Against the unsecured debts there are assets valued at £24,400. So that the net deficiency is only £1,600. The books of the firm have been placed in the hands of Mr. A. W. Chalmers, who will prepare a statement and call a meeting of creditors as soon as possible. The heavy loss referred to above was upon shipments made by Messrs. Presprich & Co., of New Orleans, whose failure we announced a week or two