

THE BRITISH SHIPBUILDING CRISIS.

The report that the lock out of engineers is to be extended to the North of England should be received with some reserve, in the opinion of the *Chronicle*. At the same time it is well to be prepared for emergencies. The shipbuilders on the Tyne, the Humber, the Wear and the Tees have no dispute with their men. Nor, for that matter, have the employers on the Clyde, but this has not prevented them from throwing a body of highly skilled artisans on the streets just as trade was improving, and according to the latest accounts these men are to be permanently superseded by "free" laborers from the free land of America. What has been done on the Clyde may, with equal reason, be done on the Tyne. The Scottish masters must know by this time that they have taken up an impossible position.

—The anti-rebate organization of American life underwriters appointed Mr. William E. Russell, ex-governor of the Massachusetts, referee of the association. Then Mr. Russell appointed as his secretary the Massachusetts insurance commissioner, Mr. Merrill. From the fact that these two gentlemen were great friends, some people have cavilled at this last appointment and hinted at a \$3,000 salary attached to the secretaryship. Mr. Merrill thereupon writes a letter declaring that he will "decline to accept as secretary any compensation whatever out of the fund [for clerical assistance] placed by the companies at your disposal."

—A machine has been built at Kingston to "rough up" the ice on the city sidewalk during the winter. It consists of a set of sixteen spiked wheels, three inches thick at the hub and two-and-a-half inches at the rim, working on one axle, and forming a sort of spiked cylinder four feet long. The wheels are two-and-a-half feet in diameter, and contain 400 spikes. It is built in a frame with shafts for a horse, upon the same principle as a horse-roller. A similar machine has been in use in Ottawa for the same purpose and has worked satisfactorily.

—A Newfoundland correspondent writes to a St. John paper: "The stores of our merchants are full of fish, on which our banks have made heavy advances. But for that aid, it is hard to say how this year's stock of codfish could have been realized at all. There is too large a quantity of fish caught in Newfoundland now for the food of its inhabitants. The quantity caught is in excess of the requirements of the consuming markets. It is easy to see how this excessiveness works mischief all round. A very small quantity, more than "sufficient," undervalues the entire supply. The excess not only kills itself, but the whole voyage."

—A Chicago journal, the *Canadian-American*, says: "Charles T. Murray, a well-known Washington newspaper man, has just been visiting Ottawa, the capital of Canada, and after meeting all sorts of Dominion officials, makes this admission: 'In the treatment of strangers I miss the offensive arrogance of our petty officials, the impudence of pages, and democratic insolence of office generally that pervade our republican institutions. Dignity and courtesy, such as characterize gentlemen in private intercourse, meet us half-way on every hand. I have been about Congress for twenty-five years, and the contrast makes me smart in my inmost democratic soul.'"

—An ingenious and suggestive dun is offered by *The Canadian Journal of Fabrics* in the following terms: "It is unnecessary to remind any one familiar with the textile industries that the warp and the filling are both essential to the production of the fabric. In newspaper work the warp threads are golden, and are supplied by the subscribers; the filling is a fine count of brains and ink. We are now drawing in our warp threads for another year's weave, and find among them some that are short. Can you aid in lengthening them?"

—The *Sherbrooke News-Letter* states that a new company was organized there last week for the exploration of granite quarries in Whitton. The principal shareholders are Senator Bolduc, R. H. Pope, M.P., Dr. H. Lacoussiere, Dr. L. Trudeau, Fall River, Mass., and Mr. Roy, New Bedford, Mass.

—A remarkably beautiful diamond, weighing 655 carats, has just been found at the Jagersfontein Mine, in the Orange Free State.

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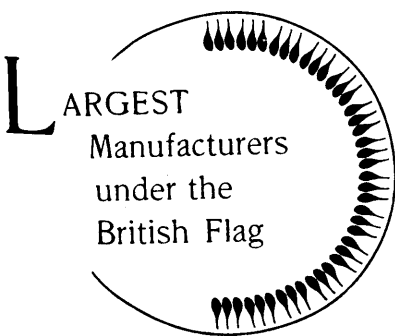
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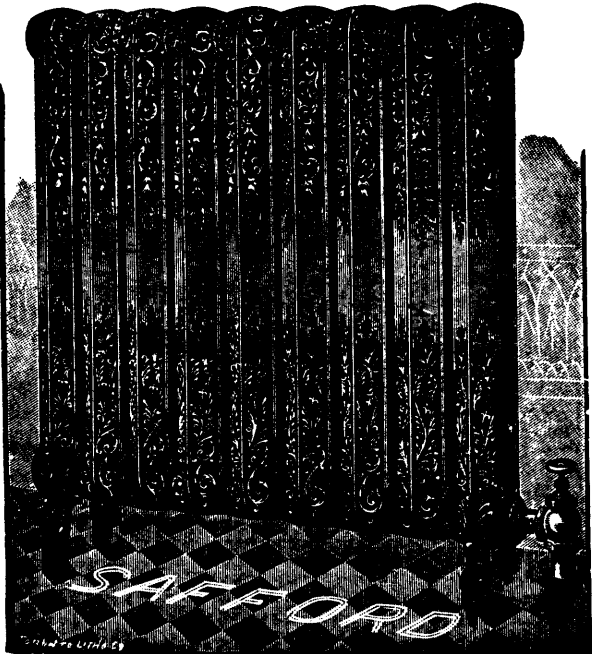
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