

Messrs. Bryce, McMurrich & Co are improving their Columbus woollen mills. By means of new machinery their capacity is to be enlarged to turn out annually \$100,000 worth of fine flannels, blankets and tweeds.

The former owners of the Newcastle woollen mills, which were burned, and will not at present be rebuilt, have purchased the old Hespeler property at Hespeler, and are fitting it up as a three sett mill for the manufacture of flannels, &c.

It is reported that negotiations have been opened between the Levis Chamber of Commerce and the Jacques Cartier Bank, with the view of furnishing that town with banking facilities, which it has been without since the withdrawal of the Merchants Bank branch.

Among the latest mining news, we learn that an iron mine is just being opened in the township of Bedford, north of Kingston. It is stated that the mine has been acquired, and is being worked in the interests of an American company, having its headquarters at Bethlehem, Pa.

The demand for good horseflesh in the shape of fast trotters, may, we presume, be accepted as another indication of returned prosperity and more plentiful money. The sale of several horses at from \$300 to \$900 is reported last week in Montreal, in the latter case, we believe, the animal went to Boston.

In the South African diamond fields wood is very scarce. It is carried by ox teams 100 miles, and sold on the market at auction for from \$25 to \$50 per load, according to size and quality. Old dead wood, dug up by the roots, sells from \$25 to \$30 per load; and a load of sound wood, unsplit, one and a half cords, sells from \$40 to \$50 per load.

An assignment for benefit of creditors was made some days ago by Dart & Murdoch, grocers, Ingersoll. The estate is to be wound up, and will pay, it is thought, 69 or 70 cents in the \$. This firm bought out, some 18 months ago, the stock of M. G. Lewis at seventy five cents in the dollar. They appear to have had very little capital of their own, and found it impossible to succeed.

DURING the year ending the 30th of June last, 902 vessels were built in the United States, with a tonnage of 157,410. Of these, 31 with a tonnage of 25,582 were constructed of iron. The total number employed in the carrying trade was 24,712, of 4,068,034 tons. These were employed, thus: In the foreign trade 2,204 with a tonnage of 1,314,402; Coasting 20,011 with a tonnage of 2,637,685; whale fishing 174 with a tonnage of 38,408; Cod and Mackerel, 2,323 with a tonnage of 77,538. During the year 86 vessels with a tonnage of 26,882 were sold to foreign countries; 469 were lost, with a tonnage of 98,439; and 360 were abandoned, the tonnage of which was 40,390.

The firm of Gould & Wilson, wagon makers, etc., in Guelph, who have not been long in business under this style, have assigned in trust. A writ had been served by the mother of Gould for \$3,500 for advances. Moreover, he had given, not many days since, a chattel mortgage in favor of a brother-in-law, for \$1,400, while the property

they occupy is incumbered for \$1,200. But they were induced to make a trust assignment; and it has been agreed that Wilson shall retire from the business and J. L. Gould continues, intending, with the assistance of some of his creditors, to complete contracts for the North-West territories amounting to some \$9,000.

A MEETING of the creditors of Saunders, Oliver & Kerr, founders at Palmerston, was held at Guelph last week, when an extension of 6, 10, 14, 18, and 22 months was granted them on liabilities of \$5,765. The assets are put down at \$13,150, but a mortgage of \$3,000 held by the corporation (which gave them a bonus to that amount) is not included in the above statement of debts. It appears that Mr. Saunders did not contribute as much means to the business as was expected he would: he now leaves the concern, while the remaining partners, Oliver & Kerr, continue, under terms of extension above noted.

So great is found to be the convenience and saving of communication by telephone, that the business is spreading with remarkable rapidity, and in Canada, to say nothing of the United States, the demand for instruments and wires overtakes the facilities for the rapid execution of orders. The Bell Telephone Company of Canada, which has acquired the telephone properties of four telegraph and of several Canadian telephone companies, and which has exchanges in fifteen Canadian cities and some twenty towns, is offering a portion of its shares for subscription, the books to be closed at Montreal on 21st inst. The company is in good hands, and we should think has a successful future before it.

MR. EUGENE FONTAINE, the inventor of the new locomotive bearing his name, which was built at Paterson, N. J., and is attracting so much attention in the west, was born near Quebec, of French Canadian parents, learned his trade as machinist at Rouse's Point, N. Y., is forty-six years old, and lives in Detroit, Mich., where five years ago he took charge of the "Pin Works." The Fontaine locomotive has four driving wheels, revolving above the boiler upon the flanges of the smaller wheels below running upon the track; the lower wheels revolving one and three-quarter times to each revolution of the upper wheels. It is reported to have run a mile in forty-eight seconds.

The Institution Ethnographique of Paris has long been anxious to have a range of observers far north on this continent on account of the ever-increasing attention to arctic and northern electric phenomena. They accordingly requested the *Delegue Correspondant* for the North-West, Prof. Bryce, of Winnipeg, to name suitable persons to act for them. The names of Mr. M. Fortescue, H.B.C. of York Factory; Mr. Roderick Ross Macfarlane, H. B. Co., of Fort Chipewyan; and Rev. Robert Macdonald, English Mission, Mackenzie River, having been suggested, these gentlemen were appointed as *Delegates Stationnaires* at their several points by the Paris Executive.

AMONG the woollen mills in the Maritime Provinces whose proprietors have sent us particulars

as to their production, is that of Messrs. F. C. Snow & Son, of Annapolis, N.S., which is a one sett mill, making tweeds, flannels and heavy satinetts. Messrs. McDonald Bros. make homespun, flannels, tweeds and blankets, at Hopewell, N. S., having one set of machinery and four looms. The firm of McDonald & Bro. at Glendyer, Mabou, C. B., began last summer to make tweeds and homespun, in addition to doing carding, spinning and dressing. Theirs is a one sett mill.

The factory of Messrs. Clay & McCosh, at Paris, which was burned down in July last, has been rebuilt and enlarged to an extent which will increase its capacity fully one-third. The premises are enlarged and being refitted with the newest and most improved English and American machinery. The factory, which was previously a three sett one, will have equal to five setts when complete, with an output of say \$150,000 per annum of knitted goods. Their Toronto agent, Mr. Wylie, expects to have the full range of their samples in hand during March.

It is stated that Messrs. Wilson & Co., of Seaforth, will likely be compelled to close their fruit-evaporating works, because they have been unable to secure fruit enough to keep it running. The average price paid has been 20c. per bushel, while it is said that American factories get their fruit at from 10 to 15c. The *Expositor* understands that there are thousands of bushels of apples in the vicinity going to waste, which, we should think, might well be sent to the works in question.

Two joint stock companies have recently been formed in Watford. The foundry in that place formerly owned by Messrs. Bole & Stickle, has now a joint stock capital of \$10,000. The first named gentleman is president and the latter secretary of the Company. Another company has purchased the plant of the *Forest Advertiser*, and amalgamated it with the *East Lambton Advocate*. This company has a capital of \$2,500, of which 50 per cent is paid up. Mr. D. J. Campbell, banker, is treasurer, and Mr. W. W. Buchanan, editor and manager. The *Advocate*, which is a very creditable sheet, is issued semi-weekly.

ABOUT 11,000 tons of salt were manufactured at Kincardine in 1879 by Mr. Rightmeyer. A reduction of nearly 2000 tons is apparent in the quantity he turns out this year. This is largely owing to the increased cost of freight between that port and Chicago, where most of this salt is sold to Messrs. Armour & Co., the pork dealers, for packing purposes. A duty of \$160 per ton is imposed on Canadian salt going in. This, with the heavy shipping charges, left little or no profit to the manufacturer. Hence the reduction in the quantity produced. The owners of salt blocks cannot understand upon what principle the tariff is based. A duty is imposed on foreign grain, coal and coal oil, they say, and why not on foreign salt?

—The shipments of lumber from Montreal to Great Britain for the season of 1880 were 19,784,835 feet.