

PASTURES GREEN WHICH WERE ONCE SWAMP.

Sixteen years ago S. T. Martin determined to do something to rescue the marsh lands throughout the county [of Kent]. He owned 600 acres of swamp on lot 5, con. 5, Dover township, and in two years of hard work redeemed fifty acres of expense. He then invented the now famous wheel, 28 feet in diameter, which will clear a stream 7 feet wide and 5 feet deep, at the rate of 4 to 6 miles an hour. The process adopted was the building of an embankment 6 to 7 feet high with a ditch outside, encircling the tract to be reclaimed, and thus protect an overflow of water from outside lands or creeks. The wheel pump is placed at the lowest part of the work, and internal drains draw the water to the pump. It is then lifted over the embankment to the outside and carried to creeks or the lake.

After successfully experimenting on his own land Mr. Martin formed the Chatham Dredging Co., and went into the business on a large scale. The work has all been done under the Municipal Drainage Act.

Asked concerning the amount of land reclaimed, Mr. Martin gave the following figures: Pike drainage work, Raleigh, 5,000 acres.

Skinner drainage work, Wallaceburg, Chatham township, 5,000 acres.

Forbes drainage works, Tilbury, 6,000 acres. Pelee Island, 5,000 acres.

Track on the west marsh, west of Sandwich, 2,000 acres.

Dauphin drainage works, Tilbury, 2,200 acres.

"There is not much more land to reclaim," said Mr. Martin to the *Planet*. "The whole county has been pretty thoroughly covered. In all our work we have had no unpleasantness with any of our employers and never had a man hurt—a most satisfactory record."—*Chatham Planet*.

THE OLDHAM COTTON MILLS.

The latest published returns of the Oldham and district cotton spinning companies, as found in the *Textile Mercury*, show a fairly prosperous condition of things. Of the thirty-eight companies reported, all but one show a profit ranging from \$260 to \$9,565 for the past quarter. These figures, remarks the *Mercury*, "indicate that these concerns are making headway in the direction of liquidating the adverse balances which have hung round a good many of them since 1890, and in some instances prior to that period. At one time dividends were almost as plentiful as blackberries are in September, but alas, that is not so to-day. Times have greatly changed since those halcyon days. Some of the companies have this quarter been enabled to declare enhanced dividends—this particularly applies to the Milnrow ring spinning companies—while a few have given the shareholders a taste of dividend, after years of patient waiting. It is satisfactory to know that the companies are gaining ground and becoming financially stronger. Two or three, we regret to say, are not yet thoroughly clear of financial difficulty; but there is reasonable ground for believing that this will in due course be overcome. A company here and there having gone under during the bad times has had its sad effects on shareholders, loanholders, trade creditors and the workpeople. Indeed, it may be said that there are fewer cotton spindles now at work in the Oldham district than there have been for some years, with the corollary of large numbers of operatives out of employment. The latter are having a taste of the bitters, after enjoying the sweets for so many years. The immediate outlook, judging from remarks one hears drop now and again, does not augur good profits for the trade."—*Boston Journal of Commerce*.

SUBSTITUTE FOR GLASS.

NEW TRANSLUCENT FABRIC FOR USE AS SKYLIGHTS AND VAULT COVERS.

The translucent fabric recently brought out by a New England firm to take the place of glass skylights has, after a continuous experimental service of seven years, been pronounced never to have leaked, and to be in as good condition as when first put in place. The material has many advantages claimed for it, chief of which is that by its employment in train sheds, freight houses, and similar buildings having skylights of large areas, the light weight of the

material permits of a simple, inexpensive, and light form of a skylight construction. The joints are made watertight by a special form of construction employed with this material. The fabric is said to have marked advantages over glass in being practically unbreakable, and for this reason leaks on account of breakage or cracking are not experienced. The translucent fabric consists of a transparent material spread over steel wire cloth, with twelve meshes per inch, which gives the panels a flexible and elastic property, permitting adjustment to any shape that the roof structure may take, owing to the expansion and contraction of the framework. Several large industrial establishments have been fitted up with this material, among others the General Electric Company's new shops at Schenectady, N.Y., and the new forge shops of the Berlin Iron Bridge Company, of Connecticut. Brands or coals dropped upon it will not set fire to it. Its cost is much less—20 to 30 per cent.—than that of ordinary glass skylights.—*Philadelphia Inquirer*.

MIXING FRENCH WINES.

VICE-CONSUL PRESSLY TELLS HOW "VIN BORDEAUX" IS COMPOUNDED.

Charley P. Pressly, United States Vice-Consul at Marseilles, France, is from Augusta, Ga. He was appointed first to Grenoble, France. During his residence in France, since the autumn of 1893, only one ship flying the American flag has entered the port of Marseilles. That solitary ship was "an ocean tramp." A small sailing vessel, the "John C. Chapman." Mr. Pressly says that a great volume of imports come in to that port for the United States, but it is all shipped to this city and elsewhere in foreign bottoms. Most of these imports consist of wool and hide from Turkey, Persia, and other Asiatic countries.

The wines of France have been an interesting field of study to Mr. Pressly, and he has learned, he says, that California claret is as good a wine as the claret of France. The Bordeaux wines that are exported to England and America are not pure wines, but are mixed expressly for the foreign trade.

"The French do not like a heavy wine," said Mr. Pressly, "and the claret they drink is quite light. Even this thin wine is nearly always mixed with water, half and half. They say water brings out the fruity flavor."

"The English, on the other hand, like a thick, heavy wine, with good body. When they taste the French native wine, they say it is nothing but colored and flavored water. To meet the English and other foreign demand, the French wine dealers at Bordeaux take the thin native wines and mix them with the much heavier wines of Spain and Portugal, and the result is the 'Bordeaux' of commerce."

"They have a wonderfully effective and rapid method of doing this mixing. Two bins of French wine are placed close to one bin of Spanish and one bin of Portuguese wine. Above them all is placed another bin, empty, and ready for the receipt of the mixed wine. An electric engine, to which is attached four rubber suction pipes, does the work of mixing. One pipe goes from each bin of wine into the empty bin above. The wine from the four bins is sucked up and poured in equal quantities into the empty bin."

"The mixing is thorough. Malaga wine from Spain, port, perhaps, from Portugal, and the thin French claret all go into the one compound, and you have 'Vin Bordeaux.' Its component parts are all good wine, but it is not a pure wine in the sense of being the product of one kind of grape."

"The French don't like it to be known that 'Vin Bordeaux' is a mixture. The former United States Consul at Bordeaux, George W. Roosevelt, now consul at Brussels, was shot down in the streets after having described the process in a consular report."

"Another misconception about the French drinking of wine is that they consume great quantities of it. This is not correct. A Frenchman will go into an inn, call for a glass of wine, and sit down and play a game of cards. He may be playing for an hour, but the wine lasts him all that time. He takes but one glass. It is needless to say that under similar circumstances an American would call for several glasses of wine—or something stronger."—*N. Y. Times*.

THE VASTEST INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENT IN THE WORLD.

The fame of the Krupp works at Essen, Westphalia, as the vastest industrial establishment in the world, appears to be still maintained. At present the establishment consists of two steel works with fifteen Bessemer converters, four steel works with Siemens-Martin open-hearth furnaces, iron, steel and brass foundries; puddling, melting, re-heating and annealing furnaces; drawing benches; a hardening and tempering department; file manufactory; rolling mills for plates, rails and tires; railway spring and wheel manufactory; steam hammers, forges, axle-turning shop, boiler shop, engineering and repair shops. Besides the above and many other departments at Essen connected with the making of cannon, there are steel works at Annen, in Westphalia, three collieries in Westphalia, besides participation in several others; 547 iron mines in Germany, various iron mines in Bilbao, in Spain; four iron works, including one at Duisburg, one at Engers, one at Neuweid and one at Sahn; various quarries of clay, sandstone, etc., four steamers and artillery ground at Meppen, Hanover. The property owned extends over nearly 2,500 acres, and the number of hands employed in the mines and steel works is about that figure. There are altogether 1,500 furnaces of various kinds, twice as many engines and machine tools, 22 roll trains, 111 steam boilers, two hydraulic presses, 263 stationary boilers and 421 steam engines, representing together a force of 33,139 horse power.

WORLD'S OUTPUT OF GOLD.

The estimate made by Mr. Preston, director of the United States Mint, that the world's production of gold for the present calendar year will reach at least \$220,000,000 should completely dispense of the free silver delusion that there is a "scarcity of gold." This output is unprecedented. It is over twice as large as that of 1886, nearly equal to that of gold and silver combined in that year, and many millions in excess of the entire production of the yellow metal from the discovery of America, in 1492, down to 1850, a period of over three and a-half centuries. This is not all. The prospects are that the production of gold next year will be still greater. With wheat advancing in price, silver at a standstill, and the gold supply increasing, it is no wonder that Bryan and Jones have "taken to the woods" for consolation.—*N. Y. Com. Advertiser*.

"Calvin Gordon was the owner of a woolen mill. Now-a-days, in the era of capitalism, such a statement would imply the possession of at least considerable wealth. Not so then. Mills were small, and run usually by the owner himself with the help of his family. The type is now obsolete. The all-absorbing system of centralized production, with its proletariat work-people, its immeasurable capital, its dreary history of strike and lockout, has crushed the little mill as completely as the Dakota wheat field has crowded out the New England farm. The stream which supplied power to the Gordon mill and to five others, now runs untroubled through the alders. It has become the sole property of a wealthy manufacturer, who uses it for trout much as the patricians of old Rome used the lakes of Campania for carp and barbel. The plain brave life of New England has vanished. The old economy, with its relatively meagre productivity, but its incomparably better distribution of wealth, is a thing of the past. The coming socialistic synthesis, if it be no mirage, is at best far, far distant. And, meantime, suffering, want, class hatred, economic chaos!"—*Philadelphia Journal*.

—A special despatch of 20th inst. from Gaspe, at the extreme eastern part of Quebec Province, south of the St. Lawrence, says: The oil company has struck another good flow at a depth of 2,900 feet. It is stated that there is about two hundred feet of oil in the well. The find is in an entirely new locality. By the way, has there ever been any thorough explorations of alleged oil-bearing districts in this province? Traces of petroleum have been found in a number of places.

—"Yes, the choir got up and walked out of church." "What was the matter?" "They are all for free silver, and the clergyman gave out 'Jerusalem, the Golden.'"—*Chicago Record*.