

## Manufacturing Items.

THE *Commercial Bulletin* of Boston (a most excellent weekly journal by the way) says that the manufacture of flax into fabrics of cloth and twine has been steadily advancing at Lockport, N. Y. The company engaged in the business have employed 30 hands in a large building where, to make the white fabric from the raw material, about five days are required. Twine is made in less than two days. In the third story, Race, Mathews & Co. are about putting in new machinery for the more extensive manufacture of twine and rope. The second story is filled with such machinery now, which is running every day. The company have been very fortunate in securing the services of Joseph Taylor as superintendent, a gentleman recently from England, whose life has been devoted to this business. Under his efficient management the enterprise will gather new life. They have on hand a large supply of flax, but are still buying all they can get at \$15 per tun, and the farmers are preparing for a much more extensive crop for the coming year.

THE following stave and barrel works are in operation in the Saginaw Valley, Mich.:—O. A. Ballou & Co., Kaw-kaw-lin, own stave and heading works which cut 20,000 staves daily; cooper shop in connection, where 100 barrels are put up per day. C. & E. Ten Eyck, East Saginaw, general machinery; cut in 1863, 2,500,000 staves, with requisite heading; capacity, 3,500,000; cooper shop in connection. Fisher & Lee, East Saginaw, general machinery and saws for cutting tight barrel staves; cut in 1863, 400,000 staves and 20,000 sets heading; capacity, 4,000,000 staves, 200,000 sets heading. Curtis & King, Salina, own stave and heading works; capacity, 3,000,000 pieces staves and heading. Empire Barrel Company, Carrolton, made in 1863, 16,000 barrels, 500,000 staves, and 30,000 sets heading; they have general machinery and stave-sawing machines for tight work; capacity for cutting 3,000,000 heads per annum.

THE New Bedford Copper Company's mill was in operation 275 days in 1863, during which 2,113½ gross tons of metals were melted, and about 2,500,000 lbs. of yellow metal sheathing, heavy yellow metal plates for Government vessels, and bolts, were turned out—a daily product of 9,091½ pounds, and an increase of nearly 33 per cent. on the daily production of the preceding year. The cost of manufacturing was about the same as in 1862, the improved facilities and increased skill being counterbalanced by the enhanced cost of material. Five per cent. of the metals melted are lost—passing off through the chimneys. Most, if not all, this waste will be prevented by a new apparatus which arrests the flying particles of the molten metal.

THERE have been manufactured at the Armory in Springfield, during the last month, 25,700 muskets—a larger number than ever before fabricated in a single month. The last two weeks 6,000 were turned out each week, averaging 1,000 each day. The largest number ever manufactured before in one week was 5,040. When the last month's work is completed, there will be in store at the Armory over 200,000 guns, of which 40,000 are packed ready for shipment. The number of guns to be made the present month will probably equal the last month.

THE Haydenville Brass Works have been established some fifteen years, and now employ 150 hands in manufacturing brass work for plumbers, engine builders, and machinists. They have a high reputation for perfection of finish and manufacture. The business of plumbers' supplies has increased so much of late that their Boston agents, Messrs. Dalton & Ingersoll, 17 Union street, have given up a large hardware trade and are now engaged entirely in these specialties.

MILWAUKEE already manufactures more leather than any city in the West. The Wisconsin Leather Company alone last year produced more than half a million dollars' worth of leather. There are now building near the canal, in the Sixth Ward, two large tanneries—one for Mr. Zohrlant and the other for Mr. Neumann, both men of large experience in the business.

THE flannel mill of John Townsend, of Milton Mills, Rochester, N. H., is now in full blast, and turns out about 13,000 yards of flannel per week.

T. B. PHELPS has completed a "Pea Factory," at Detroit. The building is of brick, 40 by 80 feet, and is devoted to a two-fold use, viz: the "splitting" and grinding of peas, the raw material being obtained from Canada, and the kiln-drying of grain preparatory to its consumption for manufacturing purposes. The machinery is propelled by a neat engine of 15 horse-power, built at the foundry of J. B. Wayne & Co., and the whole affair is the handiwork of Detroit artisans. Among the most noteworthy items of the machinery is an ingeniously contrived screening apparatus for dividing the peas into two sizes, preparatory to splitting them. This was arranged and put up by John Babillion. The mill has capacity for turning out a barrel of peas ready for market every five minutes. The kiln-drying apparatus is designed chiefly for cargoes of damaged grain, and shippers and underwriters who are so unfortunate as to sustain damage to cargoes, will find it a great convenience in being thus enabled to obtain a market.

FLAX is getting into extensive use in Wisconsin for manufacturing purposes. At Milwaukee there are exhibited specimens of flax white as snow, and also colored with the most brilliant hue; calico made of fifty per cent. of flax; cotton flannel, one-half flax; felted cloths, and a variety of other manufactures of which flax is a component part. As handsome an article of broadcloth is manufactured from this cottonized flax as could be desired.

THE number of cigars made by one firm in Detroit, Mich., in 1862, was 1,500,000. The tobacco is all imported from New York, and is the growth either of Havana or Connecticut, mostly of the latter. Cigars are all made by hand. Attempts have been made to bring in the aid of machinery in their manufacture, but they have proved futile.

THE Nova Scotia grindstones are now largely superseded by those obtained in Ohio, which for all the different varieties of grit, either for wet or dry grinding, are pronounced equal, if not superior, to the best English stone.

THE Amoskeag Company's Machine Shop is fully in operation, employing over 400 hands upon arms for the Government and steam fire-engines (turning out on an average about two a week of the latter), as well as doing other miscellaneous work.

THE Ames Plow Company, with \$400,000 capital, has been organized in Boston, to manufacture agricultural implements. O. Ames, President; E. Tasker, Treasurer.

THE Manchester Print Works are as usual in full blast. Many valuable improvements have recently been made by this company, and probably no establishment in the whole country is superior to it.

THE Taunton Locomotive Company are building an extensive improvement to their works.

## FARMERS' CLUB.

At the meeting of the Farmers' Club on the 1st of March, a long discussion was had on miscellaneous subjects, valuable for the most part to farmer's only. We select two items as being perhaps of general interest.

A communication was received from a man in Illinois, giving an account of some experiments made by him to ascertain the quantity of pork which could be produced from a bushel of corn, fed in different states. As young pigs require food other than corn, he took for experiments swine more than four months old. He says that, with hogs in clean comfortable pens, supplied with plenty of dry straw—

50 lbs. of corn, whole and raw,	will make	10 lbs. of pork
50 " do ground	" "	15 " "
50 " do ground and fermented	" "	17 " "
50 " do cooked and fermented	" "	21 " "

The subject of the application of magnesian limestone being introduced, Mr. Thompson remarked that while it was well known that magnesian soils are very poor for most crops, he had observed that they were very favorable for melons. He had planted water-melons on rich, strong land; and the fruit was hardly larger than oranges and almost tasteless; while at the same time he had seen water-melons growing on almost barren magnesian soils, and the melons were very delicious, and some of them weighed forty pounds. Mr. Thompson asked an explanation of this, but received no answer.

## MISCELLANEOUS SUMMARY.

A GOOD INVESTMENT.—Within the memory of some of the older merchants of New York, Robert Lenox purchased a farm on the eastern side of the "Central Park" for the sum of \$30,000. That property now belongs to his son, James Lenox, a resident of this city; and he has recently put it upon the market for sale. According to a map now before us, the old farm contains 404 city lots, each 25 feet by 100. At the rate which some of the property has recently been sold, its entire value cannot fall much short of \$2,500,000. This may be regarded as a good investment.

THE "GREAT EASTERN."—The fate of the *Great Eastern* seems to trouble the English people greatly. A correspondent of the *Mechanic's Magazine* suggests that the side wheels and their engines be removed altogether and that new and simpler screw engines, working steam expansively, and capable of accomplishing a higher rate of piston speed than the old ones, be introduced; equal at least to a total of 10,000 horse-power. The correspondent thinks that with this arrangement the increased cargo-room and augmented speed of the ship would make her not only popular but profitable.

A MAMMOTH HOTEL.—The Lindell Hotel, St. Louis, is the largest hotel in the United States. It is seven stories high, exclusive of basement. Its height from sidewalk to cornice is 112 feet. Beside marble flooring and other flagging, 300,000 feet of flooring boards have been laid, requiring 300,000 feet of carpet to cover them. Thirty-two miles of bell-wire are used, and three water-tanks, or reservoirs, into which 30,000 gallons of water are taken up and distributed to all parts of the house, rest upon the roof. The whole property will have cost nearly a million and a half of dollars.

MECHANICS EXCLUDED.—At one time the rich merchants and professional men of Philadelphia proposed to form themselves into a social circle, from which all mechanics were to be excluded. The papers were drawn up for this purpose and presented to Dr. Franklin for his signature. On examining its contents he remarked that he could not consent to write his name, inasmuch as by excluding mechanics from their circle, they had excluded the Almighty, who was the greatest mechanic of the universe.

SILVER DISCOVERED IN MICHIGAN.—There is great excitement in Michigan over the discovery of silver near Lake Superior. Speculation has already commenced. Men who have taken lands at one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre, are selling out at advances of thousands of dollars upon the original cost of their tracts. One tract has been sold for six thousand dollars; the owner bought it a few weeks ago from Government for two hundred dollars. The specimens of ore contain liberal quantities of lead and silver.

ARTESIAN WELLS IN THE DESERT.—Modern science is literally making "the desert to blossom as the rose." In the great desert of Sahara in 1860, five artesian wells had been opened, around which vegetation thrives luxuriantly; thirty thousand palm trees and one thousand fruit trees were planted, and two thriving villages established. At the depth of a little over five hundred feet, an underground river or lake was struck, and from two wells live fish have been thrown up, showing that there is a large body of water underneath.

VAN DUSEN's whip factory, in Westfield, turns out 300 dozen whips per week.

ONE of the verdicts against New York city, for riot and damages, is the sum of \$55,000.

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The March number of this excellent magazine is as welcome as ever. The contents embrace continuations of several articles which were commenced in the February number, such as the "Convulsionists of St. Medard," "Relation of Art to Nature," which is becoming tedious; and the "House and Home" papers of Mrs. Stowe, of these no one could ever tire, so pleasingly are they written. A tribute to the Quaker poet, Whittier, and also one to the memory of Thackeray, by a friend of his, render this number an exceedingly valuable one. For sale by all booksellers.