

may regret much that has transpired, still, in view of all the circumstances, they do not openly censure the railway authorities, nor express much surprise at them making the Kamanistiquia their chief place of transfer of passengers, etc., wishing to take the water route eastward. A fair business is doing in the shops at Port Arthur, and a good deal of money circulating. People are bitter, however, against the new Ontario mining law, which will put a damper on mining just where it was expected to become more active.

INSURANCE NOTES.

As the tired householder, pipe in mouth, and surrounded by his own (or his neighbor's) children stands, like a tired statue, sprinkling his lawn, he is often annoyed by the tendency of his hose to "kink;" and when it does kink he has to go grumblingly, if not profanely, and remove the obstruction. The Gutta Percha and Rubber Manufacturing Company of Toronto is producing a kink-proof, steel-clad armor hose, which they say cannot be kinked. It has a steel wire so tightly wound around the outside of the hose that it will not kink. What is more, the wire is self-gripping, and, we are told, does not loosen or uncoil from the hose, which is a very great advantage. Their samples are shown from $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch up to 3 inches diameter for garden or fire hose.

The re-organization of the fire company upon a stable and mutually satisfactory basis is, says the *Collingwood Bulletin*, one of the urgent and important problems claiming the immediate and careful consideration of the council. To which the *Enterprise* of the same town adds: "Seventeen members of the fire company resigned their positions on account of the council refusing to accede to their demands. If the council will take the right view of the matter, they will pay good money and get good men. Of course, if they make the pay a consideration of value, they can pick their own men. It seems an impossibility to form a volunteer brigade, but certainly a good and efficient brigade, properly equipped, is something that is absolutely necessary."

We learn from the *London Free Press* that the Globe Lightning Rod Company having removed from London, a number of gentlemen have associated and applied for incorporation as the "London Lightning Rod Company." Amongst these are Mr. Macdonald, of the London Mutual; Mr. D. Rutherford, and

Mr. Charles Thomson, who has made the subject one of his studies.

The *Standard* says the following is "actually gleaned from the recent experiences of an American life agent":—

Industrial Agent—"And now, Mr. O'Flanagan, when shall I send the doctor to examine you?"

Mr. O'Flanagan—"Anphwat do the dochter want to examine me for?"

Insurance Agent (facetiously)—"To see if your heart beats."

Mr. O'Flanagan—"Indade it do not bate and niver did bate."

Insurance Agent (assuringly)—"Oh, well, he might want to sound your chest."

Mr. O'Flanagan—"Och, sound me chest, is it? Well let me tell ye that he moight tump me chist all day long and he couldn't make me heart bate."

Correspondence.

MINING PROSPECTS, &c.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR.—Throughout the district of Algoma a feeling of discontent and dissatisfaction exists among the people, owing to the unfortunate change in the mining law recently made by the Legislature of Ontario. Our readers will remember that previous to this enactment any person could buy these mining lands from the Government at \$2 per acre, but now the price has been increased to from \$3 to \$4.50 per acre. In addition, the Government reserves to itself the right to further increase the price per acre, or to temporarily withdraw the land from the market if it should see fit. The feeling caused in the mining districts by this measure has become intense and bitter. The high price put upon the land makes it almost impossible for explorers to induce any person to invest an amount sufficient to leave them any margin for their trouble, consequently explorers have completely suspended operations, which means that no new mines are likely to be opened.

While no one pretends to question the motive of the Government in passing the mining Act, there are persons who do not hesitate to contend that the Government has been, by overpressure, induced to pass this law, which is directly favorable to those most deeply interested in the Copper Cliff and Vivian mines near Sudbury. The game, no doubt, was well worked in rather an innocent looking way; but the effect upon the companies is that they have

practically succeeded in forming a sort of trust for their own benefit. Indeed if half the statements made about them are true, they were badly in need of some protection. The quantity of nickel produced from the ore has been disappointing. It is stated, on apparently good authority, that the yield will average not more than three to four per cent. This will probably pay the cost of mining; if so the company will have as net profit the percentage of copper extracted at the same time.

The principal or only paying mines now worked, beside the two mentioned, are the Badger, Beaver, West End, and East End, located near Port Arthur. Last year the three former, which are owned by Americans, yielded something over \$178,000 worth of silver, while the latter is estimated to have produced about \$50,000. Surely it is better that these mines should be thus worked by our enterprising neighbors, who have spent, at least in one mine, over \$300,000, than to have their unknown and hidden wealth lie buried for ages and generations as in the past. Our people have heretofore either been too poor or have fancied that it would be unwise to risk much of their hard earned savings in developing mines. Up to 1882 not much of any importance had been accomplished around the north shore of Lake Superior. Now a large number of persons are employed and their earnings are principally distributed in the district, and this with the shipping and railway investments has made Port Arthur what it is to-day.

E. T.

Port Arthur, Ont., May 24, 1891.

—Mr. Asker.—They tell me that the book-keeper of your firm is behind in his accounts; is that so? Mr. Tasker.—Far from it; he came out ahead. It's the company that's behind.—*Yonkers Gazette*.

—Reporter.—How did your banquet go off, Banklurk? Banklurk.—Not as well as it might, you know. The toastmaster called on a gentleman who had lost an eye, an ear, and a leg to answer to the toast "Our Absent Members."—*Harper's Bazar*.

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