

BRIGADE NOTES.

At the Brockville fire the other night four young women took a hand at the brakes, and performed the work of heroes.

MOUNT FOREST.—At the last meeting of the Town Council a report was adopted recommending the formation of a Hook and Ladder Company. This has been done before, but nothing more came of it, and we fear the same result with this one.

MR. J. E. D. CRAWFORD was recently appointed Electrician to the Ottawa Fire Brigade. It is contemplated by the Committee to establish out-lying stations in various parts of the city, in order to afford better protection against fire.

A TRIAL of a self-propelling steam fire engine was made in Springfield, Mass., the other day. The engine was under perfect control, and could be run up and down streets with a grade of 17 to the 100, stopping at any point on the descent.

FIRE BRIGADE HITCHING.—A test was made by a number of the City Council of Hamilton, composing the Fire Committee, as to the efficiency of the Fire Brigade. The Chairman, Ald. McKay, held in his hand a first-class stop-watch, and, when ready, turned in the alarm at the City Hall box, one and one-half blocks distant. The Brigade were on the spot in 51 3-5 seconds. Three men were in bed at the time. The Committee then visited the Central Station, where a trial hitch was made, all the men being up stairs; time, 6 4-5 seconds.

WINNIPEG IS NOW PAYING THE PENALTY for not having passed a fire limit by-law, restricting the erection of inflammable buildings within certain limits. There was a by-law adopted by the Council, but its active operation was postponed for one year. Now veneered and wooden buildings are rated at five per cent., stocks in them at four and four and a half, while solid brick or stone structures are insured at much lower rates. The city has an excellent and well-equipped fire brigade, two steamers, and a large chemical engine. Winnipeg has not been a sufferer by fire, the few that have started having generally been confined, owing to the efficiency of the firemen, to the building in which the flames originated.

THE DEVICE DESCRIBED in the following paragraph from the London *Times* may be found adaptable to use by members of the insurance patrols and by firemen in general: A well known German manufacturer of mica wares, Herr Raphael, of Breslau, now makes mica masks for the face, which are quite transparent, very light, and affected neither by heat nor by acids. They afford good protection to all workmen who are liable to be injured by heat, dust, or noxious vapors, all workers with fire, metal and glass melters, stonemasons, etc. In all kinds of grinding and polishing work the flying fragments rebound from the arched mica plates of the mask without injuring them. These plates are fixed in a metallic frame, which is well isolated by means of asbestos, so as not to be attacked by heat or acid. These masks allow the turning of the eyes in any direction, and, as against mica spectacles, they afford the advantage of protection to the whole face. In certain cases the neck and shoulders may also be guarded by a sheet of cloth impregnated with fire-proof material, or by asbestos sheet, attached to the mask. The interval between the mica and the eyes allows of workmen who have poor eye-sight wearing spectacles, and of workers with fire or in melting operations wearing colored glass spectacles under the mask without fear of breakage of the glass, mica being such a bad conductor of

heat. Where the mask has to be worn long it is found desirable to add a caoutchouc tube with mouth-piece for admission of fresh air; the tube passes out to the shoulders, where its funnel shaped end (sometimes holding a moistened sponge) is supported. The mask has a sort of cap attached to it for fixture on the head.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

Bogus Fire Sufferers.—A couple of hard characters with their hands wrapped in rags, from the vicinity of Puslinch Lake, have been "doing" Guelph, passing as Michigan sufferers.

Hiram Kinrade and Annie Brannigan have been arrested, charged with setting fire to the Stinson property Wentworth street, Hamilton, on September 9th. The woman was just released from gaol, where she had been on another charge. They are now committed for trial.

The French Government, on the application which has been addressed to it, has issued a permit authorizing Mr. J. H. Thors to organize, in the interests of the sufferers by the Quebec fire, a lottery of two millions of francs, to be drawn on the 1st of April, 1882.

The New York "Herald" announces with express satisfaction that six seaside hotels at one point in New England have been burned this season. It is of opinion that it would be a fine thing if they were all destroyed, for the American watering-place hotel is, in its judgment, barbarous and in all respects abominable.

The charge of arson against the Donnelly's was dismissed by Judge Elliott at London. West, the amateur detective, who made himself so conspicuous in the case, was subsequently arrested and gaoled on a charge of larceny, he having admitted in his evidence that he stole a number of chickens and ate them. The judge was particularly severe upon West.

Several little children in Iowa who had been left at home during the absence of their parents were burned to death, and the mother, returning before the house was completely consumed, was seriously injured while trying to save her children. This is the old sad story repeated for the hundredth time, carrying with it the solemn warning that it is a fatal and criminal act to leave children alone in a house.

A meeting of representative farmers from Howard, Oxford and Harwich, and the influential business men of Ridgetown was held in the Ross House for the purpose of devising means to assist D. & A. Campbell & Co. to rebuild their once famous mills, which were totally destroyed by fire. Committees were formed and will canvass the townships. Subscription books were opened and a considerable amount raised on the spot. About \$10,000 are required to be raised. Outside operations are to commence at once. The mill will be on the Hungarian principle, and will cost about \$25,000.

The insecurity of Oswego as a port has long been a matter of discussion between the Canadian and American press, and as long a matter of complete certainty to lake captains and ship-owners. But the following, which we take from an American contemporary, fully bears out all that has heretofore been said in disparagement of the harbour: "On account of the recent disasters happening to sail vessels in Oswego harbour, several Insurance Agents have been notified by the Companies which they represent to take no further risks on grain cargoes in sail vessels bound to Oswego."