

return for the privilege of wiring the streets of the city it has offered to reduce the price of gas to the citizens to an extent aggregating \$50,000 a year. The Council should be interested in securing light for the citizens at the cheapest possible rate, and no hindrance should be placed in the way of a responsible company which offers to supply this requirement.

THE country has of late been flooded with funnel-shaped contrivances called "whisperphones." The vendors of these articles claim that when the whisperphone is placed over the mouthpiece of a telephone transmitter it greatly improves the powers of the instrument and renders it possible to converse easily in a whisper. It has been found, however, that the use of these same whisperphones impairs the adjustment of the transmitter to such an extent that in a short time it is almost impossible to use the telephone with anything like satisfaction, and considering the fact that the whisperphone is at its best but of very little, if any benefit, we think it would be to the interest of the telephone company to forbid its use.

MR. PILLSBURY, the great Minneapolis miller, told the United States Senatorial Committee appointed to investigate trade relations with Canada, that considerable Minneapolis flour was sold in Canada, and if the duty could be removed by annexation or any other plan, more would be sold there. We are not so sure that annexation would confer much additional advantage upon the Minneapolis miller. So long as the Canadian tariff and the Canadian Pacific Railway continue their discrimination in favor of the Minneapolis miller, he stands about as good a chance of capturing the Canadian market, as though all duties were removed. In the latter event, too, it must be remembered, Canadian millers would be free to compete for the trade of the New England States, whereas under present circumstances their hands are tied from so doing.

AS pointed out in Mr. Brown's letter published in the ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL AND MILLING NEWS, the people of Nova Scotia are bitterly opposed to any protection being granted the Ontario milling industry, notwithstanding that Ontarians are cheerfully paying a very considerable sum each year for the benefit of the Nova Scotia coal mining industry. Our friends by the sea act in such a way as to convey the impression that they are protectionists "for revenue only." They are now praying the Government to impose a duty on importations of meat from Chicago. If it is wicked to "tax the people's bread" or to speak more correctly, secure the home market for the Canadian miller, would it not be equally sinful to "tax the people's meat," in order to give the home market to the Canadian meat producer? It strikes us that the people of Nova Scotia are inclined to be neither generous nor consistent.

MR. JOHN FORBES, a prominent Scottish miller, addressing the Council of the National Association of British and Irish Millers recently, on the subject of fire insurance, suggests that insurance companies should offer a premium to millowners on whose premises a fire has not occurred for a number of years. The amount of the premium should be in proportion to the length of the period during which the premises have been free from attack of fires. "This would be an encouragement," Mr. Forbes says, "to a millowner to take extra precautions against fire, because it would be clearly his interest to do so. Mills which have good management and escaped fire for a long period should surely be entitled to a liberal discount from the fire offices. The longer the care has been exercised, the greater the inducement to the millowner to continue this anxious care, so as to get increased discount and not forfeit the past. I have spoken of the scheme to several officials connected with companies, and they admit its force, but it has never been pressed."

THE efficiency of the fire protection secured by the use of the automatic sprinkler system in mills and factories appears to be of a very satisfactory character, in view of the fact that the associated factory insurance companies in the United States are urging a wider adoption of the system by manufacturers, and threaten an advance in rates where the recommendation is not complied with. It is recommended that wherever a sprinkler can be placed over each hundred square feet of floor space within the building to be protected, a sprinkler should be put, if the purpose of the owner or representative of the risk is complete protection and immunity from interruption in the conduct of his work. The New Orleans Fire Underwriters' Association re-

quires that sprinkler heads must thoroughly cover every portion of the building, including stairways, elevators, closets and blind attics; no one sprinkler head to cover more than 100 square feet of area, and that an adequate supply and constant pressure of water shall be in the pipes at all times, with valves open and in working order. Manufacturers adopting a system of automatic sprinklers should be careful to satisfy themselves of the efficiency of the apparatus, as there are said to be many worthless contrivances of the kind in the market.

THE best remedy for the smoke nuisance which the Local Board of Health of Toronto is calling upon the manufacturers of the city to abate, would probably be the employment by the owners of steam plants of properly qualified men to manage them. One of the manufacturers who was present at the consultation with the Health Board stated, that in addition to a smoke consuming apparatus his firm employed a skilled engineer. As a result, there were no complaints about the smoke from people residing in proximity to their establishment. A writer on this subject in an American contemporary, says: "It is a fact that a steam generator with properly proportioned grate and heating surfaces and combustion chamber, with all these parts large enough to perform the work without forcing, may be fired continuously and regularly, allowing the fuel to heat gradually and give off its gases slowly, and admitting air in sufficient quantity, and as the fuel heats, forcing it regularly forward on the fire without producing smoke. This process is also the most economical of fuel. The same result in a less degree may be obtained by firing with small charges evenly spread over the fire. On the contrary, a hot fire with a heavy charge of coal thrown directly upon it, evolves so large a quantity of gas that its volume prevents the proper admixture of air and the hot gas thrown against the cooler boiler precipitates its carbon, or in other words, makes smoke; on the other hand, a low fire suddenly forced and charged with fresh fuel, gives off gases at too low a temperature for full combustion and smoke is again produced. The production of smoke by either process means waste of fuel."

CANADIAN millers should be quick to investigate and act upon any suggestion having for its object an increase of the present meagre profits derivable from the manufacture of flour in this country. So long as the present tariff injustice is allowed to be perpetuated, and Canada is made as laughter market for American low-grade flour, it will be impossible for our millers to realize more than an infinitesimal profit on the sale of their flour. It may be possible, however, to so increase the demand for bran and shorts for feeding purposes, as to maintain a reasonable profit on the sale of these products. Experiments have been made by horsemen in Western Ontario and the city of Toronto with bran and shorts as a substitute for oats, and the results are said to be of a most satisfactory character. Bran and shorts are fed to the horses dry, instead of being mixed into a "mash" as has hitherto been the custom in this country. This necessitates proper mastication on the part of the horse, so that the food when taken into the stomach is in the best condition to supply the greatest amount of nourishment. Horse-owners in Toronto who have tried this system of feeding, inform us that under it an improvement soon became noticeable in the general condition of their horses. To such excellence did a well-known horseman in Western Ontario bring the condition of his animals under this treatment, that their fame spread abroad through the Province, and interested persons from Toronto visited his stables to enquire into his method of feeding. We publish these facts for the purpose of inducing millers in their respective localities to pay some attention to this matter. If the farmers and horsemen of your district are not aware of the superiority of bran and shorts for feeding purposes, enlighten them on the subject, and get them to prove the value of your statements by experimenting personally. The result will be an increased demand and consequently better prices for your offal. Try it.

IN many of our Canadian towns it has become quite a common thing to see electric light wires carrying high tension currents strung along the streets on the poles of the telegraph companies, and in many cases quite close to the telegraph wires. It is a matter of surprise and regret that this state of things should be permitted by the inspectors of the Underwriters' Association, especially as it is now an accepted fact that a cross between a telegraph and an electric light wire of high tension is extremely likely to result in a fire, except (as in some instances) the trouble is discovered and removed

in time. A number of fires occurred at London a few nights since from this very source, and we certainly think that the time has come when some definite steps should be taken towards the removal of this new danger.

It appears that the wiring of the new C. P. R. station at Montreal has been done in such an unsafe manner that it has been condemned by the Underwriters. It is a pity that the wiring of buildings of this kind should be entrusted to such incompetent workmen as evidently had charge of the work in this case. There are several first class electrical firms in Canada whose experts are fully competent to take charge of work of this kind, and we think it will pay the owners of buildings generally to pay a fair price and have their electric light wiring done in a thoroughly safe and reliable manner.

Although there are many electricians in the Dominion who are thoroughly competent to superintend the installation of arc lighting plants, it is nevertheless to be deplored that there are only a very select few who can be depended upon to take intelligent charge of the installation of incandescent plants. The causes which lead to this state of things may be found in the fact that there is not a single publication in the English language from which the average electrician can gain a clear and comprehensive view of general incandescent work. The need of a thorough and practical work on incandescent installation has been keenly felt by the electrical fraternity for some time, and we bespeak for the first edition of such a work a large and profitable circulation.

THE *Canadian Manufacturer* says:—"We do not think that the Ontario millers at their Listowel convention, on May 21, showed any large amount of wisdom in passing a resolution to petition the Dominion Government to remove the duty on soft coal, as a means of forcing the Maritime Provinces to consent to an increase of the duty on flour. Two wrongs cannot make a right. If it is right that the coal industry of the Maritime Provinces should be protected by a duty, that industry should be thus protected. If the duty on flour is not sufficiently high it should be raised, and the millers should urge their claim on this ground. Canadian millers should be very slow in entering into any movement looking to the breaking down of the National Policy. They have always claimed, and claim now, that the maintenance of the National Policy is essential to their existence; and they ought to know that the Policy of the opponents of Protection is to attack it in detail and to weaken it in every possible manner. Do the millers want to lend themselves to such efforts? Viewing Protection as essential to their interests, do they desire to ally themselves with the enemies of Protection, and help drive the entering wedge which would eventually destroy Protection, in retaliation upon the Government, who do not see their way clear to accede to their demands for a higher duty upon flour, and upon a great interest in neighboring Provinces because the representatives in Parliament from those provinces oppose the higher duty on flour? Such action as the resolution suggests is not wise. The ground upon which the millers propose to do this fighting is not sufficiently elevated. They should stand upon the higher ground of right, and demand that their interests should receive due attention." We may say in reply to the above, that the successful operation of a National Policy of Protection such as ours was designed to be, depends largely upon two things—willingness on the part of the people of the various Provinces, engaged in dissimilar industries, to co-operate with each other, and make mutual sacrifices if necessary for the sake of the upbuilding of the interests of the nation as a whole; and equal privileges under the tariff to all the industries of the country. The people of the Maritime Provinces appear to want all the benefits which may accrue to them locally from the operation of the tariff, but are unwilling to make any sacrifice in order that a great industry in the other Provinces may also be benefited. The millers want no exclusive privileges, but only reasonable protection such as is afforded under the tariff to every other important industry of the country. They are willing to pay the duty necessary to develop the Nova Scotia coal industry, provided the people of Nova Scotia are prepared to do as much to secure the home market to the Canadian miller. They believe in the principle of give and take. They don't believe in being compelled to do all the giving. Further than this, while the majority of Canadian millers are believers in a protective tariff for Canada, situated as she is alongside a highly protected and developed country like the United States, they do not believe in protection which leaves unprotected one of the chief industries of the country.