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**THOMAS CLARKE,** Manufacturers' Agent, 32 King  
Street, St. John, N. B. Excellent references.**FIRES CAUSED BY STEAM PIPES.**

Neither ordinary live steam nor "superheated" steam will heat a pipe thick and strong enough to convey it to a degree sufficient to produce a fire on wood, however dry. It will not even set charcoal aglow or in a blaze. But dry charcoal, when the heat is removed from it, being nearly pure carbon, will absorb oxygen from the air under favorable conditions, so rapidly as to produce active combustion—that is, a glow or a blaze. The process of the origin of a fire from a steam pipe is: The heat from a steam pipe will, in course of time, char, or, as the chemists say, carbonize, wood in contact or close to it. When this charring process extends to any depth in the wood it presents a surface full of fissures and cracks, thus exposing a large section to the air. This process of charring drives the oxygen out of the charcoal portion and keeps it out while the heat is kept up. When the heat is removed the charcoal reabsorbs oxygen from the air, and if the action is rapid enough in a dry atmosphere, combustion is the result. This explains why fires in steam plants and buildings heated by steam, that originate from steam pipes, always occur after the pipes have cooled—generally during the night. The idea of "superheated" steam in a cold pipe is the most absurd one we ever "ran up against."—*Southern Lumberman.*

**SLANDER IN PRAYER.**

In a decision rendered in connection with the suit for slander brought by Miss Tessa L. Kelso, librarian of the public library of Los Angeles, Cal., against the Rev. J. C. Campbell, Judge Clarke overruled the demurrer of the defendant that his statement was privileged because it was uttered in the course of a prayer before his congregation in the First Methodist Episcopal Church. The court holds that no prayer containing a slander publicly uttered can be exempt from the legal consequences, and that no communication made by a pastor to his congregation is privileged because of such relation.

**HOW TO MAKE AN ENGINEER.**

At a meeting of the Leeds Association of Engineers, held during the past winter, Mr. W. Clayton, who presided, said that Englishmen were told they were not to compete with foreign rivals, because continental people had superior technical education. It was nothing of the kind. Continental nations were able to compete with us because they could supply at lower prices, and that, in turn, was because men worked longer hours for less

money. Technical education was a good servant, but a bad master, and conducted on the lines at present pursued in this country, would lead to nothing but disaster. It was no use sending a lad for three years to a technical school, and then at 19 or 20 giving him a few months' experience in a work shop. To make a good engineer, the good old plan of apprenticeship must be adopted. Let a boy get used to his work, and then let him learn, what he could never do at a college, business habits. This was the only way to make an engineer, and no other way would be successful.

**A NEW FEATURE IN TRAVEL.**

In April, 1895, an arrangement was put into operation by the Great Northern Railway and the Northern Steamship Company which merits the attention of other roads. This is, says the *Railway Review*, a department of personally conducted first-class tours, including all travelling expenses. For the management of this business, Mr. A. C. Harvey, formerly for many years engaged in organizing California tourist parties in the New England territory, and an agent of the Great Northern Company ever since its formation, has been appointed general tourist agent of the joint lines. This new departure in the railroad service promises to be of great public benefit. The scheme includes personally conducted trips at frequent intervals during the summer, from all parts of the country east of the Missouri River, to the Yellowstone National Park, the Pacific Northwest, Utah, Colorado and Alaska.

**VALUABLE MINERALS IN LABRADOR.**

We learn that the report of W. P. Low, of the Dominion Geological Survey, on explorations in the great Labrador peninsula, has been published. Mr. Low and his colleagues in two years travelled 5,660 miles in Labrador. He makes mention of good commercial timber, mostly spruce, balsam, poplar and white birch, in that country. All lakes and rivers of the interior were found well stocked with fish, those of the eastern watershed especially so. Lake trout, often of large size, brook trout up to seven pounds weight, large whitefish, pike, landlocked salmon and two kinds of sucker were all taken almost everywhere.

Perhaps the most important geological information obtained is the discovery of a great and hitherto unknown area of cambrian rocks, extending northwest from north latitude 53 degrees beyond the west side of Ungava Bay. These rocks are made up of a great thickness of conglomerate, sandstones, slates, shales and limestone, together with intrusive igneous rocks. Their chief economic value is due to the immense amount of bedded iron ore found along with them. The ores are chiefly specular and red hematite, with beds of siderite or carbonate of iron. Thick beds of fine ore, associated with jasper, were found.

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