

now and again from some negligence or lack of prompt attention to leakages, serious accidents occasionally occur, which have little practical effect upon the consumption of gas. Now, however, that electricity is evidencing its very great superiority over gas as an illuminant, there is certain to be a displacement of gas services for electric light installations, and the demand is now considerable for these on an economical scale. This creates a new and very serious risk as the leakage of gas may be set aflame by a stray spark leaking from an electric wire. The danger of an electric wire becoming over-charged by coming into contact with one carrying a powerful current is heightened materially by the risk it creates of causing a leaking of gas and setting it aflame. The conditions under which light, heat and power are supplied by gas and electric fixings call for thorough investigation, with a view to the establishment of such precautions as would remove their obvious dangers.

Huge Sales Of North-West Lands

From present indications there will be a very large increase in the population of the North-West at an early date. From a Chicago paper we learn of the likelihood of 75,000 settlers arriving from the North-Western States of America into Manitoba and the Territories. This movement may be connected with the action of the Minnesota Land and Colonization Company, of St. Paul, Minn., which is reported to have secured a tract of 1,000,000 acres from the Canadian Pacific and the Canada Northern Land Company, in which purchases are included some of the choicest wheat lands in the North-West, chiefly in South-Eastern Assiniboia. Settlers from the United Kingdom would be preferable, and could be secured, were adequate measures adopted, such as are urgently demanded by the interests of Canada and the Empire.

Judging by the light and airy way in which some advocates of inter-Imperial trade speak of Canada's capacity to supply Great Britain with wheat, one would suppose that immediately on the passage of an Act of Parliament giving Canadian grain a preference in the British market, there would instantly spring up a crop of 200,000,000 bushels in the North-West. Were such an Act passed it would take some years to bring out settlers, place them and get their lands under cultivation. The outlook imperatively calls for prompt steps being taken preparatory to such a movement, so that Canada could demonstrate her capacity on the old plan, *solvitur ambulando*, by actually doing what it is claimed she can do. That demonstration would enormously strengthen the movement on behalf of inter-Imperial trade.

Enquiries have been repeatedly made as to the area and the population of the County of London. The "Insurance Spectator," of London, quotes the following from the Census report of the Registrar General:

	1891.	1901.	Increase or Decrease.
City of London	37,702	26,923	-10,779
Battersea	150,166	168,907	+18,741
Bermondsey	136,014	130,706	-5,254
Bethnal Green	124,929	129,680	+ 4,751
Camberwell	233,706	259,839	+26,133
Chelsea	72,954	73,842	+ 888
Deptford	101,770	116,398	+ 14,628
Finsbury	109,981	101,463	- 8,518
Fulham	91,790	137,289	+45,499
Greenwich	78,493	95,770	+17,277
Hackney	199,606	219,272	+19,666
Hammersmith	97,283	112,239	+14,956
Hampstead	68,126	81,942	+13,816
Holborn	66,781	59,431	- 7,376
Islington	319,155	334,991	+15,836
Kensington	170,071	176,628	+ 6,557
Lambeth	278,393	301,895	+23,502
Lewisham	88,933	127,475	+38,562
Paddington	135,955	143,976	+ 8,021
Poplar	166,880	168,822	+ 1,942
St. Marylebone	144,083	133,301	-10,782
St. Pancras	234,749	235,317	+ 568
Shoreditch	124,727	118,637	- 6,090
Southwark	202,479	206,180	+ 3,701
Stepney	285,116	298,600	+13,484
Stoke Newington	47,988	51,247	+ 3,259
Wandsworth	155,524	232,034	+76,510
Westminster, City of	201,969	183,011	-18,958
Woolwich	98,994	117,178	+18,184

Administrative County of London	4,228,317	4,536,541	net inc. 308,224
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This is sufficiently striking, but when we include Greater London the figures are indeed colossal. Here we have a total population of 6,581,372, and this exhibits for the ten years an increase of 947,000.

Dirty Elevator Shafts.

Attention was recently called by a Toronto contemporary to the risk of fire caused by dirt accumulations in an elevator shaft. The shaft in the Union Loan Company's building, where a serious fire recently occurred, was in a very dirty condition having not been cleaned for many months. This place is often a receptacle for inflammable rubbish, made more so by droppings of oil from the elevator. It is no uncommon thing for a lighted cigar stub to be thrown amongst this dirt which may smoulder until flame is created and then, a fire begins which may turn the elevator shaft into a furnace. The proprietors or tenants of buildings provided with an elevator need to pay attention to this danger; they should insist upon the floor of the elevator being kept strictly clean and wholly, at all times, free from waste paper, etc. An experienced fire insurance manager writes us that "next to electricity, elevator shafts and the dirty condition in which so many of them are kept, are responsible for a large share of modern fires in office buildings." There is certainly need for more care on the part of those in charge of elevators. They ought to be cleanly even were dirt no risk.