

"FIRE CANNOT EXIST WHERE OXYGEN IS LACKING" is an obvious truth, says *Cassiers' Magazine*. It is on this that the success of the various fire-extinguishing powers depends, also the efficient operation of steam jets, which latter have long been recognized as good fire-fighting media under certain conditions. Aqua ammonia has recently been added to the list of these extinguishers, as would appear from an item telling of a case where the vapours of a tank containing fifty gallons of gasoline caught fire in the linen room of a laundry. The room was instantly a mass of living flames, but a gallon and a half of ammonia water thrown into it, completely and almost immediately extinguished the fire. The ammonia was in a glass demijohn in an apothecary's shop next door to the laundry, and was thrown into the room by the druggist as an experiment. To use his own words in reporting the circumstance, "the effect was instantaneous, torrents of black smoke rolled upward in place of flames, and in a moment every trace of fire was gone."

IN THE CASE OF SIMON F. LEONARD vs. THE ORIENT OF HARTFORD, the United States Court of Appeals at Chicago on 26th ult. reversed the decision of the lower Court and ordered new trial. The plaintiff claims to recover \$6,000 under a fire policy covering a building in Chicago which the company claims fell from an explosion. The judgment of the Court is thus stated.

"The fact that in the present case the explosion occurred outside the building in which the insured goods were kept cannot affect the liability of the insurer, if otherwise liable, for the loss by fire which immediately followed.

"If there had been no fall of the building or of any part of it and the flame attending or ensuing upon the explosion had reached the insured goods through an open door or window liability under the policy for the loss would be beyond dispute. The language of the contract is clear that if any part of the building shall fall, except as the result of fire, all insurance on building or contents shall immediately cease."

Several other companies are interested, and others compromised.

VANCOUVER AND THE B. C. COAST generally are having a fill of good times. An enormous trade is being done with the Yukon, shingle mills are away behind orders and quite unable to meet demands. The city of Vancouver ratepayers have passed loan by-laws to build two permanent bridges, pave main street with wooden blocks and build new high school, aggregate expenditure for which is \$286,000. The Street Railway Company will spend another \$200,000 on bridges and improvements to their system. The Western "Tribune" says: "Notwithstanding all statements to the contrary, the mining laws of the province of British Columbia are fair to the prospector and liberal to the mine owner. The former can go where he pleases, even on to unoccupied land and stake a mineral claim. The latter is not required

to pay taxes until his mine is a producer. There may be ambiguous sections in the law; but the letter of the law is fair and the spirit is liberal. Much of the fault-finding is mere senseless clamor, made by men who are failures as individuals."

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