

whom indictments are pending, and both will now be brought to trial.

#### LONDON MUNICIPAL INSURANCE.

It is proposed by an enterprising member of the London County Council, Mr. Hubbard, that the council should be empowered by Parliament to add fire underwriting within the county of London to its administrative powers, that it might by this means be enabled to reduce the heavy cost of extinguishing fires. The proposition for consideration is as follows:

"That in the opinion of the council it is desirable, in view of the heavy and increasing cost of the fire brigade, that the council should be empowered to establish a fire insurance department, and to issue policies covering the risks arising from the fires occurring in the county of London, as is now done by the various fire insurance companies, and that the whole subject be referred to a special joint committee of twelve members, three to be nominated by the finance committee, three by the fire brigade committee, three by the corporate property committee, and three by the general purposes committee."

In relation to cost, we expend £50,000 sterling per annum in the extinguishment of our city fires, a considerably larger sum than that disbursed for a similar purpose to quench the fires of London, although containing double the population of New York; but without boasting of our exemplary administrative scrupulousness, our city authorities have never had the temerity to propose the establishment of a fire insurance department as an economic expedient. Some people, indignant at the imperative advance in rates, have combined and formed societies to escape the impost, but they will soon find that they have retreated to a roofless shelter, and will again seek refuge in the protection they have abandoned. If the proposition of Mr. Hubbard be referred to a committee, and the subject be closely scrutinized, it would soon be clearly seen that such a financial project for the relief desired would be more adapted to produce embarrassment than mitigation.—*Ins. Journal, N.Y.*

#### AN ENGLISH VIEW OF THE CHICAGO EXHIBITION.

While we write the doors of the World's Fair at Chicago are about to be closed, and the occasion is a fitting one for saying something about the show, its lessons and probable influence on international trade. By this time no one needs to be told that the exhibition is the largest that has ever been held. When it was projected there was great rivalry as to the place at which it should be located, but we do not think that any one will regret that Chicago was the successful competitor. It was only in a city with such a remarkable record that such a vast exhibition could be organized and carried through in a manner at which all the world has wondered. The men who have in a marvellously brief space of time created the great city on Lake Michigan are no ordinary mortals, and when they undertook the Exhibition it was guarantee enough that everything would be done on a grand scale, and that visitors would not be disappointed when they arrived. The site selected for the Exhibition was not at first view an attractive one, but shrewd men saw in it great possibilities in the way of yielding attractions under a judicious expenditure of money. Nor did they prove to be wrong in their forecast. The exhibition buildings and their surroundings when completed formed a picture which filled every eye with wonder and admiration. On what was little better than a swamp has been reared a city of palaces, covering three times as much ground as had ever before been occupied by an exhibition, and when these palaces were filled with samples of products of art and industry from every part of the world, their attractions were enormously enhanced. The whole constituted an object lesson on the most gigantic scale ever witnessed; and it is not to be wondered at that men of business as well as mere pleasure-seekers have crowded to Chicago during the past six months. The movement of these people has helped railway and steamboat traffic to a very important extent, and otherwise has put much money into circulation.

Progress in these days is rapid, and those who have had the privilege of comparing the

Chicago Exhibition with that held in Philadelphia, in 1876, say that in many branches of production enormous advances have been made in the interval. England has not been adequately represented at the Exhibition, and this is much to be regretted, as it has enabled some of our competitors to crow over us, notably the Americans themselves. In one of their most recent reviews of the Exhibition we read:—"The English jewellery is notably weak, and what there is of it suggests a still more lavish adherence to accepted designs than those of Germany." Then comes this blast on the trumpet:—"In jewellery the United States challenges comparison with the world." Blast the second says:—"In all that suggests progress either in workmanship or design, in the products of the silversmith, the great American exhibitors show a superiority as clearly marked as in jewellery." It is not pleasant to read this sort of thing, but we suppose it is inevitable under the circumstances. For reasons satisfactory to themselves, many of our most famous producers in every department decline to show their goods at exhibitions of this kind. Hence we suffer when comparisons are made with countries which put forward their every effort to make a commanding show. The department in which the greatest progress has been made in recent years is undoubtedly that of the electrical arts, and this progress has been well illustrated at the Chicago show. In the first place, electricity as a motive power was largely used in the erection of the buildings, being employed to work lifts, drive saw-mills, painting machines, etc.; while in lighting the exhibition no fewer than one hundred thousand incandescent lamps and five thousand arc lamps have been used. The engines put down for generating electricity at the show have an aggregate of 25,000 horse-power. At Philadelphia, in 1876, there were shown only a few crude dynamos, each designed for one light only, and there was no incandescent lamp in existence. The telephone was a scientific toy, and the line over which it operated was just the length of the exhibition building. Now the telephone is an indispensable mode of communication everywhere in use, and capable of carrying verbal messages over a distance of a thousand miles. Then it was a world's wonder to see two telegraphic messages sent simultaneously over one wire in opposite directions. Now seventy-two messages can be sent, thirty-six in each direction, on one wire, without interference.

Whatever the opinion of individual producers in this country may be, we cannot help thinking that these great exhibitions are calculated to have a beneficial effect on international trade. People from all ends of the earth assemble, and, as a rule, carry home with them some souvenir, which in course of time causes the maker's name to be known and his goods sought after in new parts. Producers, too, are afforded an opportunity of seeing what their rivals are endeavoring to secure the market with. It is true, of course, that exhibitors give away something in this way, but as a set off, have they not an opportunity of obtaining important information and ideas? Exhibitors are fortunate enough, too, in many cases, to obtain trade orders to a large amount, and where this is so all objection to exhibitions is surely removed. Considering the extent to which England has been represented at Chicago, a pretty fair share of the awards appear to have come this way. Let us hope that none of our friends who had the enterprise to exhibit at the World's Show have had cause to regret doing so. The Paris people are enthusiastic exhibition organizers, and it is possible that the show that they are preparing to hold in the year 1900 will beat all its predecessors, not perhaps in the amount of ground it will cover, but in being more thoroughly representative of the art and industrial products of the world. In this connection we may here repeat what we said a year before the opening of the Chicago Show, that it would be better that English trades should not be represented than they should not be seen at their best. We have shown how we suffered by comparison at Chicago; let us take care that at Paris we give either no basis for comparison or make such a display as will do us the fullest justice.—*Hardware Trade Journal.*

—The quantity of hard coal brought into Toronto during last month was 28,236 tons, valued at \$116,161.

#### AUSTRALIAN BANKERS FIND THEMSELVES IN A TIGHT CORNER.

Sir Matthew Davis, the chairman; Mr. Millidge, the manager, and Mr. Muntz, director of the Mercantile Bank of Australia, which failed in 1891, have been committed for trial on the charge of submitting a false balance sheet to the stockholders. The bank was incorporated in Melbourne on June 27, 1877, with a nominal capital of £100,000. The head office was at Melbourne, with branches at Geelong, Prahan, Ballarat, Collingwood, and Mentone, and a London office at 39 Lombard street. The bank carried on a purely Australian business until November, 1888, when the London office was opened. The total subscribed capital was £977,500, the paid-up capital being £400,000, of which £309,000 is upon the Australian register, and £91,000 upon the London register. Dividends were paid from 1881 to 1887 at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum; from 1888 to 1891 at 10 per cent. per annum, and for the year ending February, 1892, a dividend at 8 per cent. per annum was declared. On December 4, 1891, the bank failed, with liabilities to the unsecured creditors of £1,030,305, and estimated assets of £56,904. The failure grew out of the stoppage of the many building societies in Australia, but later the official receiver in London said there were many matters in which the management of the bank by the Australian directors should be the subject of a very searching enquiry.

#### THE BUSINESS MAN AND HIS CLERKS.

The world credits the American business man with being industrious and careful, and to those qualities, quite as much as to his native shrewdness, is attributed his wonderful success. He is a worker in all that word implies, and all unite in accrediting to him a closer attention to the details than is given by men of other countries. Employees overlook this fact, and they look upon their employer as a man who has profited by their labor, not stopping to think of the hours of toil and trial that they have passed through. The workman has his fixed hours for labor, and when the day's work is done his mind is not tormented with thoughts of the morrow, but with the employer there are no stated hours for his work; his only limit is the few hours given to sleep.

The hours in his shop when superintending his work are his easiest hours. His severest toil is that of providing ways and means of conducting his business. To do this he must find customers, watch commercial affairs, look to credits, see that the work produced is such as will sell well, guard against waste in every department, be ready to meet competition without loss, and to systematize the workings of the factory and office that loss will be reduced to a minimum, and the office will always be provided with funds to meet all demands upon it. His life is one continuous round of labor, and the closer attention he pays to the details, and the more prosperous the business, the better it is for the workman. Then, too, the more active the man the closer his connection with the business and with his relationship to his workman, and the less the friction between employer and employee.—*The Hub.*

#### QUEBEC MINING ASSOCIATION.

The General Mining Association of Quebec will hold its annual meeting in Montreal on the second Wednesday and Thursday in January. Arrangements have been made for papers on the following subjects: "The Diamond Prospecting Drill in mining Canadian phosphate and smaller irregular mineral deposits," by Mr. I. Burley Smith, M.E., Glen Almond, Que.; "Mine Tunnels and Tunnel Timbering," by Mr. W. A. Carlyle, M.E., Montreal; "Ore Sampling," by Mr. J. Donald, M.A., Montreal; "Notes on the White Mica Deposits of the Saugenay," by Mr. J. Obalski, M.E., Inspector of mines, Quebec; "Notes on the Canadian Iron Industry," by Mr. George E. Drummond, Canada Iron Furnace Company; "Curiosities of Mining Law," by Mr. B. T. A. Bell, Ottawa; "Recent Deep Borings in Germany," by Mr. F. Cvikel, M.E., Ottawa. Papers, the subjects of which have not been announced, are expected from Dr. F. D. Adams, Montreal; Dr. Harrington, Montreal, and Dr. Robert Bell, Ottawa.