

the discovery which in Mr. Smith's hands had so transformed the face of American milling. This rival invention was alleged to have taken place in an obscure mill in one of the mid-land counties in England. As, by the Canadian patent law, proof of prior discovery at any time and in any part of the world, is a sufficient defence to a Canadian patent, it was made necessary for the plaintiff at vast expense to investigate and disprove this allegation. Thus commissions were taken out by both plaintiff and defendant and sat in England taking evidence for several months last year. A similar story of prior discovery had been concocted by some persons in the United States and was also brought into this case: a man named Middleton, it was alleged, had made and put in operation in Cleveland, Ohio, a complete Middlings Purifier, involving the plaintiff's invention, in the year 1866. The evidence filed by the plaintiff in rebuttal conclusively shows this to have been one of the most remarkable cases of deliberate imposition on the part of the alleged rival inventor, ever attempted to be practiced upon a court of law.

While all these dangers have happily been disposed of, and the inventor is at last secured in the possession of his rights, it may well be imagined that the cost has been such as would long ago have frightened the ordinary impecunious inventor from the field.

It may be added that this conclusion has only been reached when the fifteen years patent originally granted, is within less than two years of its expiry. If, as seems to be generally conceded, after careful investigation in the United States, a patent law is in the interest of the public, as an encouragement to industrial improvement, is it not time that patent law in Canada should be reviewed so as to afford something more than illusory protection to the rights purporting to be solemnly granted under the seal of the Crown?

On Monday of this week a judgment was consented to by the defendants, affirming the validity of the plaintiff's purifier patent and settling the amount of royalty to be paid by W. & J. G. Greey on any purifiers made under the patent, sold in the future, at \$50.00 per machine.

Another litigation pending between the same parties has at the same time been amicably closed, i.e., the suit of the Messrs. Greey against the Smith Company for infringement of patent on a form of dust collector assigned to the former by Mr. S. L. Bean. The Smith company had only manufactured under a license from a company in the United States, who are the owners of a rival patent and under whose indemnity the company has been acting. The Smith company, being satisfied of the validity of the S. L. Bean patent in Canada, frankly admitted it, and submitted to a decree in that suit, and have agreed to pay royalty on any future sales coming under that patent.

#### CANADA IN NEW YORK.

A new direction for missionary effort has been found by that enthusiastic worker, the president of the Canadian Club of New York. It has been found that dense ignorance prevails in that city with regard to Canada and Canadian affairs, and the club arranged to be, gin dispelling it by a lecture in the Club Rooms. Only, the president did not give the lecture himself, as he ought to have done. When we remember, says his circular, "that the Dominion of Canada comprises more than one-half of the North American continent, and that movements are taking place therein of

potent influence on the growth and direction of the future population of the continent: equally on the important subject of vastly increased production of food products and on the questions affecting railroad transportation, in which so many have so deep an interest, it will be admitted that information about these new regions and their impending development, possesses unusual attractions at this time."

In order that an audience might be gathered worthy of the occasion and the theme, Mr. Wiman, in his usual lavish way, sent circulars of invitation by the thousand to journalists, judges, bankers, bank officers, lawyers, railway magnates and capitalists, in the great city. The lecturer was chosen in the person of Rev. Dr. Ecclestone, rector of St. John's church, Clifton, Staten Island. The reverend doctor spent a long summer vacation upon the line of the Canadian Pacific railroad, and he described what he saw on the way from Montreal to Vancouver in the Dominion.

A private correspondent writing from New York on Monday last, in reference to the lecture on the "Canadian North-west," given by Dr. Ecclestone at the instance of the Canadian Club, says: "The attendance at Chickering Hall on Saturday night was something unusual. Among the most distinguished persons present were such men as Sidney Dillon, the largest shareholder in the Union Pacific Railway; Russell Sage, a director in more railways than any other man in New York; Mr. Harris, the president of the Northern Pacific road. Bank presidents to the number of twenty-eight were recognized, while there must have been many who were unknown, yet who were present. A hundred and fifty bankers, ranging all the way down from August Belmont to the smallest dealer in stocks and bonds; active brokers like R. J. Kimball or H. J. Morse, and Wall Street magnates such as Wormser, Horton and others, were also present. Not the least significant was the presence of such men as Rockefeller and Jabez A. Bostwick, the great magnates of the Standard Oil Company. Take it all in all, it was a great gathering, and the interest shown to be taken in the lecture must have been gratifying to Mr. Wiman and his associates in the Canadian Club. It is doubtful if ever in the history of any great railroad undertaking was there a better presentation made of its merits and of the great work which it is to accomplish, than was given on Saturday night to the Canadian Pacific road. Extreme interest was manifested also in the Hudson's Bay railroad enterprise, and Mr. Sutherland's name, when mentioned, was received with applause. Subsequent lectures of the club, if all as successful as this, will accomplish a great and good purpose in enlightening New Yorkers about Canada."

#### INSURANCE NOTES.

The London Assurance Corporation has entered the province of New Brunswick as a fire underwriting competitor, Mr. R. W. W. Frink, of St. John, is the general agent for that province.

A large insurance company of Paris has issued a confidential circular to its agents warning them against insuring persons who are in the habit of dying their hair and beards.

Mr. McT. Campbell, special agent of the Canada Life Assurance Co., has been spending some time in British Columbia where he did good work for his company, and returned to Winnipeg last week.

Digby, N. S., has a new steam fire engine, built at the Burrill-Johnson Works, at Yar-

mouth, which was tested last week. The town has tanks whose capacity is 150,000 gallons, or nearly 4,000 barrels.

On Saturday last St. John marine underwriters were pretty well plied with adverse news, for they had advice of the following losses: Schooner, "Maggie Willett," at Brooklyn, Queens, N.S., insured in Whittakers' office for \$2,000, Temple's office for \$2,000, and Knowltons' \$1,000. Also schooner, "Frank L.," 124 tons, bound from New York for St. John, went ashore at Bass Rocks at four o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Total loss. Cargo insured for \$4,312, divided \$2,400 in one office, \$1,600 in another, \$200 and 112 in two others.

A claim was made by Mrs. Sarah E. Kerr against the Accident Insurance Co., of N. A., which, it appears, had a policy upon Mr. Kerr's life. At Stillwater, Minn., on the 23rd ult., her attorney asked leave to amend the complaint by setting up that Kerr committed suicide in a fit of insanity. Judge Crosby, of the District Court, granted leave to amend upon condition that the attorney would eliminate from his complaint all allegations of murder. The attorney accepted. This is said to exculpate Kehoe, the Chicago detective.

A case is reported by the *Versicherungs Zeitschrift*, which is worth experimenting on with the view of elucidating the fact, as it is the common practice in many business places to take up with sawdust spilt oil or vanish—which practice would thus prove dangerous from a fire insurance point of view. The case is reported as follows:—In a colour-store, a glass bottle filled with linseed oil varnish, fell to the floor and broke; the liquid was soaked up with sawdust, which was put in a box. After about four hours, the sawdust was much heated and in the middle reduced to charcoal. To await the further course, the box was placed in the open yard, where, about another hour later, it was in flames.

We should not wonder if the accident insurance companies' staffs would ask for a holiday to celebrate the discovery of a man who will do as this unpretending railway section-man has done. We give the story as told by the *Nebraska State Journal*: "The Burlington has at last found a man with a conscience—a genuine all-wool conscience, a yard wide and an inch thick. Six weeks ago a section man working near Endicott was injured through his own carelessness while running a hand car. The company courteously decided to allow him half pay during the time he was laid up, and a short time ago sent a check for the amount. Yesterday the money was returned with statement that the man did not care to accept it as the company was in no wise responsible for the accident. Chief Clerk Hagerman, who opened the letter, was carried out into the open air, where he recovered after snow had been rubbed vigorously over his features. The document will be framed and hung in the office of the Superintendent of the A. & N. R. R." Wonder if the accident companies have ever found customers refuse indemnity offered them on the ground that the insurer's own carelessness caused or contributed to the accident which laid him up?

—The Department of Finance at Ottawa issues a circular to Canadian post office savings banks, directing that henceforth the highest limit of deposits allowed must not exceed three hundred dollars. In future, no special permits to deposit a larger sum will be granted.