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The Passing of Mill Construction. THE result of fires in several large buildings in Chicago constructed on what is known as the slow-burning or mill construction principle, is of such an unsatisfactory character, that a sub-committee of the Board of Fire Underwriters has been appointed to investigate and report on the value of this method of construction as a means of resisting fire. For years the Underwriters' Association have made a liberal reduction in insurance rates to the owners and occupants of such buildings, but the opinion is gaining ground of late that structures built on this principle are as incapable of resisting fire as are those of ordinary construction, and consequently that the lower insurance rates hitherto accorded them should be withdrawn.

The Destruction of New Westminster, B. C. THE report of Judge Harrison, who was appointed a commissioner to investigate the causes of the conflagration which destroyed the city of New Westminster, B. C., concludes with the following statement: "Lack of funds, trying to economize, and the desire not to lessen the supply of water to consumers, induced the council to experiment with the waterworks system, contrary to the advice of the construction engineer, without finding out from some competent source whether he was right or not, and disabled the waterworks for fire protection, and want of funds and trying to economize led to the