

ruches are in many cases edged with a different trimming from the formerly colored beads.

It is stated that the firm of Siemens & Halske, of Berlin, have invented a method by which the steam engine of a factory can be stopped within two revolutions from any part of the works, even though a full head of steam be on. The apparatus is electrical, and the object to be gained is stated to be the prevention of accident.

Electric lighting of railway carriages on the Midland Railway of England is done after a fashion designed by Mr. J. A. Timmis. The system secures "through lighting" in a train by the adoption of the Union battery stored in each vehicle. Any carriage may be put into a siding, or be slipped from a train, without interfering with the maintenance of the light. In case one or more of the vehicles are slipped or break loose from a train, the lamps in them, if lit, remain lighted. They can be automatically lighted up.

Kuhlow's journal says that at a meeting lately held in Hamburg by the Association of Jute Manufacturers the question of limiting production in spinneries and weaving mills was discussed. Production of jute goods in Germany is greater than consumption, and it is intended to reduce the working time in the mills to 60 hours per week.

A Cotton Centenary is proposed to be held in Charleston, S. C., in 1890. It was in the year 1790 that the first successful crop of sea-island cotton was raised at Hilton Head, S. C. It is now proposed to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of that event as the Centenary of American cotton. As South Carolina was the State in which the first crop was raised, and Charleston the port whence the first cargo was shipped, there is a reasonable appropriateness in the selection of the city of Charleston as the place for the celebration.

Writing of the Mills American Tariff bill, the *British Hosiery Review* says: "To the majority of our readers the question will be of very great importance, as the quantity of articles, manufactured and otherwise, that are now sent from British and Continental ports will be materially increased if these tariff proposals are accepted; indeed, we venture to assert that England will reap the largest share of any advantages that may arise from the adoption of the ideas now advocated by the free trade party in the United States."

A German sewing machine factory, the *Nahmaschinen-Fabrik vorm. Frister & Rossmann*, sold goods in 1887 amounting to 2,243,053 marks, of which 83 per cent. was sewing machines. The concern has general agencies in Vienna, Budapest, Frankfort-on-Main, Barcelona, and Stockholm, as well as a branch factory in Aussig-on-Elbe.

A high place was given to the engineer by Professor Woodward, of St. Louis, in his speech to the American Society of Engineers at their recent meeting in Nashville. "The engineer is a creation of recent date. Engineering is a modern profession. The Romans invented the full centre circular arch, and so took the first step in real engineering. But beyond the arch they made little progress. The masonry of their aqueducts involved no second step. In a climate like ours, with wide ranges of temperature and humidity, their arches would have crumbled in a century. Look for a moment to the elements which distinguish New York or Boston to-day from the New York or Boston of 100 years ago, and see to what extent we are under obligations to the engineer."

That paper can be made out of saw-dust and mill refuse (we presume he means pine saw-dust and pine slabs) there is no doubt whatever, according to Mr. W. H. Howell, who is fitting up the old Bronson mill at the Chaudiere, Ottawa, for the purpose. He has got \$15,000 to \$20,000 worth of machinery on hand, including grinders, dryers, calendars, cylinders, &c., for the manufacture of paper. Mr. Howell said the turning of saw-dust into paper pulp and paper was no longer an experiment but an assured success. When asked how he extracted the resin in the saw-dust, he said that that was one of his secrets and his exclusively.

INSURANCE NOTES.

The marine underwriters of New York strongly recommend ship owners to moor their vessels alongside the wharves with ropes and not with chains, as, in the case of fire, the rope can easily be severed and the vessel released, whilst chains occasion such delay as to be frequently the cause of great destruction.

The Standard Life Assurance Company at its sixty-second annual general meeting, held at Edinburgh recently, showed following results for the year ended 15th November last:—2,835 new proposals for life assurance were received for £1,538,550; 2,515 were accepted, assuring £1,302,913. Total existing assurances in force at that date amounted to £20,323,778, of which £1,372,554 was re-assured with other offices. Claims by death or matured endowments which arose during the year amounted, including bonus additions, to £597,118; the annual revenue to £915,925, and the accumulated funds to £6,807,956, being an increase of £111,531. The Canadian business of this fine old Scotch company has assisted to swell these figures to their present handsome proportions.

It is a satisfaction to those who are so often compelled to the conclusion that premises burned have been set on fire, to see, once in a while, punishment meted out to the wretched scoundrels who risk both life and property to make a few hundred dollars by arson, or who set fire to property from an impulse of violence or revenge. At Sarnia, on Monday last, Jackson Cook was sentenced by Judge Mackenzie to Kingston Penitentiary for ten years for attempting to spread the fire in Forest on the night of April 15th by setting fire to bedclothes and washstands after pouring oil on them.

The professors of Harvard College evidently believe in the protection afforded through life insurance. Nearly all of them hold policies in the Mutual Life, of New York, the largest being for \$50,000 on the life of Professor Agassiz.

A collection of Essays on Spontaneous Combustion has been published by the *Spectator* Company, N. Y. and Chicago. They are by Mr. C. John Hexamer, C. E., who has evidently studied the phenomena of spontaneous ignition and prepared a very useful little book, which may well be studied by fire insurance men.

A very sudden death was that of Mr. James McFeiggan, inspector of the Gore District Mutual Fire Insurance Co. An acute attack of liver and lung inflammation carried him off, after a few days' illness, in his 51st year. Mr. McFeiggan was well known throughout Western Ontario, and esteemed as an energetic and prudent man of business.

The May meeting of the Life Underwriters' Association of Maine was held at Portland. Mr. John E. De Witt, of the Union Mutual

Life, was elected president. A paper was read by Insurance Commissioner Smith, who was afterwards elected an honorary member.

Insurance circles, says the *N. Y. Commercial Bulletin*, have been interested in the attempted frauds upon the Equitable Life Assurance Company of New York, in Belfast. It seems that the Belfast agent of the society, one Chestnutte Smyth, subordinate to the office in London, and his sub-agent, J. S. Orr, had been engaged in forging proposals and medical reports, and having policies issued on the lives of certain residents for the benefit of beneficiaries, who had no insurable interest in the lives assured. A death claim arose in the case of a familiar character in Belfast, as "Black Joe;" the papers looked suspicious and an investigation was made. The secretary of the London office visited Belfast to look into the matter, when the fact was developed that the medical report, in the particular case in which death had occurred, had been altered, and that there were others in which the proposal and medical blank had been forged, Smyth and Orr were at once arrested, and their trial created a sensation. A citizen who had bought up the "Black Joe" policy as a speculation and the medical examiner were also arrested: The prisoners were committed for trial at the July assizes, and it has since been announced that the Crown will take up the further prosecution. The Equitable has not suffered in consequence of this attempted fraud, having cancelled all the policies which had been issued through this conspiracy.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

W. H. M., Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.—For a portable grist mill, such as you say is required for that distant locality, the likeliest firm to address is the Waterous Engine Works Co., Brantford. They make portable grist mills, and we believe have an agent in Winnipeg.

J. C. S., Ottawa.—Yours of 20th received. Have now a complete set. Thank you for the last.

D. M., Midland.—Will write you; we cannot at once name such a person as you seek. You give no particulars as to extent of business or amount of money required. Clerks are easily got; experienced and level-headed men of affairs are not quite so plentiful.

—The policy of protection to the iron and steel industries is having a stimulating effect on the large works in the Maritime Provinces. Fifty per cent. more men are employed in the rolling mills in New Brunswick, our correspondent tells us; in the Steel Company's works at Londonderry, the number of men has increased from 300 to 500 in the iron works the operatives number 660, and the yearly wages total \$200,000, against 343 operatives and \$140,000 wages last year. At the steel works in New Glasgow there is a considerable increase in men, wages, and output. Such improvements have been effected at Londonderry and New Glasgow as to obviate the necessity of importing many descriptions of iron and steel. Nearly all the ordinary kinds in use can now be produced in our own country, and only special kinds need be imported.

—Mr. Henry Taylor has been acquitted, at a recent trial, on the charge of misappropriating money of the Ontario Investment Association. The money, on the first charge, was invested in Manitoba property, but in the opinion of