

BEWARE OF VAPOURS IN EMPTY GASOLINE CANS.

An instructive report upon the hazard arising from gasoline vapours from old cans and cavities in machinery and engines has been issued by the U. S. Bureau of Mines of the Department of the Interior, from which the following is an abstract:

These seemingly empty gasoline cans or tanks are probably more dangerous than those filled with gasoline. Usually the can will not be entirely emptied but will contain a little liquid gasoline that did not run out. This gasoline will vaporize, the vapour will mix with the air in the can, and the mixture may easily be explosive. When the can is being filled this mixture of gasoline vapour and air is forced out by the gasoline and may explode if it is ignited by a flame or spark near the opening.

Many engines are built with cavities or enclosed spaces in the crank case, base, or some other part; these may be full of gasoline vapours. Many men, when inspecting or making repairs with an open light, have been severely burned when these vapours have been ignited.

To guard against such accidents all cavities should be blown out with compressed air or steam. If neither of these is available the cover should be removed, the vapours should be fanned out, and a lighted lamp or candle attached to a long stick should be passed around inside the cavities to burn out any vapours that may remain before the workman puts his hands or face near them.

Unless an ample current of air at considerable velocity is passing, gasoline should not be used to clean oil and dirt of an engine or other machinery.

LIFE UNDERWRITERS' MEETING.

The Life Underwriters' Association of Canada held their mid-year executive meeting in Montreal last week, there being a large and representative attendance from the various Eastern Canadian centres. The visitors included Messrs. Lawrence Priddy, of New York, president of the National Association of Life Underwriters of the United States, and Neil D. Sills, of Richmond, Virginia, ex-president. A large amount of business was transacted, including the organisation of arrangements for the joint convention of the American and Canadian associations, to be held in New York in September next.

Mr. J. T. Wilson, of Halifax, president of the Canadian Association, will begin next month a coast to coast trip, accompanied by Mr. Castle Graham, general secretary, occupying about two months. In the course of this trip practically all the local associations will be visited.

THE ROYAL ARCANUM.

Insurance Commissioner Hardison of Massachusetts has issued a report prepared by the insurance departments of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York, in which it is declared that the Royal Arcanum of Massachusetts is 99 per cent. solvent. The investigators find that there is no justification for proceedings for the dissolution of the society, nor justifiable grounds for application for the appointment of a receiver by any court.

The one security outside of government securities that is absolutely stable and unchanging in dollar-for-dollar value is life insurance.—*New York Life Bulletin.*

TRAFFIC RETURNS.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY.

Year to date	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Jan. 31,	\$8,380,000	\$9,941,000	\$10,570,000	\$629,000
Week ending	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Feb. 7,	1,876,000	1,890,000	2,096,000	206,000
14,	1,912,000	2,180,000	2,306,000	126,000
21,	1,796,000	2,225,000	2,435,000	210,000
28,	2,537,000	2,482,000	Dec. 55,000

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.

Year to date	1916	1917	1918	Decrease
Jan. 31,	\$4,257,416	\$4,677,388	\$4,083,362	\$594,026
Week ending	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Feb. 7,	937,937	928,462	675,115	253,347
14,	868,432	828,671	752,861	Dec. 75,810
21,	853,582	956,487	980,013	Inc. 23,526
28,	1,139,386	1,133,392	Dec. 5,994

CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY

Year to date	1916	1917	1918	Decrease
Jan. 31,	\$2,086,800	\$2,832,600	\$2,715,300	\$117,300
Week ending	1916	1917	1918	Increase
Feb. 7,	429,400	493,600	634,600	141,000
14,	312,700	602,000	688,000	86,000
21,	336,600	598,700	652,800	54,100
28,	664,300	715,600	51,300

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