

MESSRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH & CO., PATENT SOLICITORS, Canada Life building, furnish us with the following complete weekly list of patents granted to Canadians in the following countries. Any further information may be readily obtained from them direct.

Canadian Patents.—T. E. McCollum, momentum car brakes; F. L. Higgins, pipes for blowing and propelling bubbles; A. Corneillier, hay presses; J. E. Forfar, apparatus for teaching musical scale construction; F. L. Nolte, sound reproducers; R. Sylvester, wood drying and bending apparatus; J. W. Cumming, coal or rock drilling machines; J. C. Stocks, musical note building blocks; W. E. Vans-tone, water tube steam boilers, and hot water heaters.

American Patents.—Walter Dean, hockey stick; J. H. Gagnier, car brake; Thomas Slean, baby walker; F. Willis, combined coffee package and clarifier; J. C. Beaumont, kneading board.

HORSE DEALERS have not an illustrious record for frankness. The Chicago "Record-Herald" however has an announcement that shows it is not impossible, as is generally thought, for a horse dealer to be square, as his object is to get round a buyer. Here is a curiosity it the way of frankness.

"We have a good family driving horse for sale, providing you carry insurance. He is not over-particular as to feed. In fact, he prefers our neighbor's haystacks and corncribs to our own. We feed him whenever we can catch him, which is seldom. He is partly gentle. The other parts are not, and you must govern yourself accordingly. We will throw in the derrick and telegraph pole combination which we use to hitch him up with. If you are fond of driving, we would advise you to engage a cowboy that owns a fast horse to do your driving, and be sure to get on top of the barn before he begins to drive the horse. For price and coroner's address, apply to the owner."

THE "STANDARD" OF BOSTON WINS IN A LIBEL SUIT. In 1898, "The Standard" printed an article relative to a Mr. Connor, reflecting upon this person's integrity. Mr. Connor brought suit against "The Standard," claiming \$10,000 damages. The defendant put in an answer justifying its publication, and citing the records of the fire marshal's office and police department to substantiate its statements. The case came to trial and the jury found a verdict for defendant. The court ruled that a newspaper is privileged to publish any public record, and that, if it does so without malice, it is protected, the burden being upon the plaintiff to show malice. That the defendant, in justifying a publication on the ground of the truth of the statements contained therein, is not obliged to prove that a statement is literally correct, but is justified if it proves that the statement is substantially correct.

A REIGN OF SYSTEMATIC INCENDIARISM IN CHICAGO was brought to an end this week, says an esteemed contemporary, by the arrest of the larger part of a gang of about ten, including a woman. The plan was to rent a one-story frame structure, place a small stock of cigars therein, leave the usual cigar

lighter burning all night, and turn on the gas in the building. A "flash" fire would occur, absolutely destroying the contents but hardly damaging the building. The several cigar dealers who were in the conspiracy, and who have been arrested, would give fraudulent bills of sale, representing many times the real value of the property sold, and the gang would collect from the insurance companies. It is estimated that the latter have paid from \$50,000 to \$75,000 on account of this crowd. There is a hint that some of the public adjusters have connived at the frauds and that they may be brought up also.

IN CONFIRMATION OF THE RECENT REMARKS of the "British Columbia Review," as to the better wearing qualities of English over American machinery, that paper points to the statistics of boiler explosions in the United States which shows a striking contrast as compared with the same in this country. During the year ending July 1st, 1900, in England only 89 persons were killed and injured by boiler explosions. During the same period there were 830 casualties from this cause in the United States. The *New York Mining and Engineering Journal* expresses itself as quite "unable to arrive at any explanation which appears to be reasonable and adequate" for this great difference. Although the proportion of injuries in the States, is as 10 to 1, the number of boilers do not run to anything like that proportion. We believe the reason lies in the superior care with which boilers are made in England and this country and consider that this again proves the truth of the old maxim that the cheapest goods are often the dearest in the end.

THE PROPERTIES IN NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW-FOUNDLAND so successfull exploited for many years by the Nova Scotia Steel Co., are reported in "The Canadian Mining Review" to have passed into the hands of a British Syndicate. The profits of the Nova Scotia Steel Co. for year ended 31st Dec. last, were \$655,272, to which may be added the balance to credit of profit and loss account carried forward, amounting to \$47,883, or a total of \$703,156. This was distributed as follows:

Dividend paid on Preference Stock 10th Sept., 1900	
4 p.c.	\$41,200 00
Interest on Mortgage Bonds.....	45,726 00
Reserve for Bad Debts.....	10,000 00
Depreciation.....	20,000 00
Plant Renewals.....	200,000 00
4 per cent. Dividend on Preference Stock, paid 9th March, 1901.....	41 200 00
10 per cent. Dividend on Ordinary Stock, paid 9th March, 1901.....	103,000 00
Balance at Credit of Profit and Loss Account.....	242,030 24
	\$703,156 24

This week's figures was the largest in the history of the Montreal Clearing House.

THE SURPLUS FUNDS of the fire insurance companies interested in the Jacksonville disaster aggregated \$39,241,000, the insurance losses reported amount to \$3,943,000, the cash on hand held by the companies on Dec. 31st, 1900, was \$12,865,000. The losses as given by "The Insurance Press" were bad enough, but they only averaged 6.60 per cent. of the total surplus.