

or a fineness of 925-1,000. The weights will be as follows: Fifty cent pieces, 179.3336 grains; twenty-five cent pieces, 89.6668 grains; ten cent pieces, 35.8667 grains; five cent pieces, 17.9334 grains. In testing coinage it is the practice to make an allowance for accidental deviation from the exact standards of weight and fineness, which mint." The one cent bronze coin will weigh 87.5 grains and will contain 95 p.c. copper, 4 p.c. tin, 1 p.c. zinc.

Too Fast Around the Curve. Another train has been wrecked in England, nineteen people killed and thirty-nine injured, through going too fast around a curve—the old trouble. The perpetrators of the crime, the men who valued the lives of their passengers as cheaply as they did their own, are beyond the reach of human punishment, they are all dead. The only way to discourage this kind of criminality is to punish the offenders systematically and rigorously not only for the consequences of their criminal acts, but for the criminal acts themselves. The engine driver who goes at full speed around a sharp curve and escapes disaster, is every whit as responsible as the driver who takes the same risk and wrecks his train. If he is acting under pressure from superior officers who ought to know better they should be held responsible. We believe the common sense of the English people and the ability of their Board of Trade will be adequate to find a remedy for this remarkable development of railway foolhardiness. Experience has shown, too, that our Canadian railways cannot be too careful regarding the rate of speed going round curves.

Permanent Civic Debts. Some years ago the then members of the Montreal City Council became afflicted with anxiety lest wisdom should die with them, and with a view to mitigating the resultant loss to posterity, they commenced to put the debt of Montreal on a permanent basis at seven per cent., their wisdom telling them that the city would never be able to borrow money at a lower figure—besides they got rid of the necessity for a sinking fund. By way of a commencement they issued \$587,000 worth of non-terminable bonds at seven per cent. The city has just begun to redeem these bonds by paying \$175 for them and will substitute therefor terminable bonds bearing four per cent. interest. Later on, the then Civic Fathers went to the opposite extreme, as far as rate of interest was concerned, and issued a permanent loan at 3 p.c. which was sold at 75 thus adding materially to amount of the indebtedness or liability of the city for the sake of making a saving in interest charges.

Powder Mills. By the explosion of the Dupont Powder Company's Mills, at Fontana, Indiana, twenty-five to fifty people have been killed and more than six hundred injured. Farm houses and school houses two miles away from the mills were destroyed and the occupants killed or injured. The lesson seems obvious. Powder mills should only be tolerated in places remote from ordinary human habitation. That the employees of the mills should live near

them is one of the risks of the business, that ought to be paid for. But farmers and their families have not sufficient interest in the powder business to justify their lives being put in constant jeopardy. It seems to be only a question of time when every powder mill will "go up." An island remote from general occupation seems to be the right place for the powder mill. We imagine that a powder mill at a moderate distance is even a more dangerous neighbour than a dynamite factory, because the slower explosive will cover a wider range in its destructiveness.

Kipling on Immigration. Rudyard Kipling is a man who thinks in epigrams. Speaking on the Oriental Immigration question he says: "Immigration is what you want in the West. You must have laborers there. You want immigration, and the way to keep the yellow man out is to get the white man in. If you keep out the white man then you will have the yellow man, for you must have labour. Work must be done, and there is certain work which a white man won't do so long as he can get a yellow man to do it. Pump the immigrants from the Old Country in; pump them in. England has five millions of people to spare."

CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS ASSOCIATION.

The usual quarterly meeting of the C. F. U. A. was held in Montreal this week. The president of the association, Mr. T. L. Morrissey, was in the chair. The following Western members were present: Messrs. Laidlaw (Norwich Union), Symons (Western), Root (Hartford), Wright (Sovereign Fire), Franckum (Scottish Union & National), Kirkpatrick (Home), Haight (Waterloo), and Ewart (Phoenix of London).

A deputation from the Ontario Fire Insurance Agents, consisting of Mr. Young, president, Fort William, and Mr. Campbell, secretary, Arnprior, with three other members, appeared before the meeting, with the object of having minimized the disadvantages to the agent, of overhead writing, and also to request the members of the C. F. U. A. to discountenance the appointment of more than one agent in each town. The question of making changes in the direction of a more elaborate system for rating lumber was brought before the meeting, but the companies came to the conclusion that it would not be expedient to interfere with existing rates, after a tentative application of the schedule to a large number of lumber yards.

THE LIFE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL will hold its annual dinner at the Place Viger on 28th inst. Among the expected speakers are Premier Gouin, Mayor Ekers, Donald McMaster, Esq., K.C., President H. C. Cox, of the L. U. A. C., President C. Jerome Edwards of the N. A. L. U., and Vice-President G. T. Wilson, of the Equitable Life Company. A very prominent member of the Dominion Cabinet is also looked for