

## KILLED IN MINE EXPLOSIONS.

It appears that the number of deaths in Great Britain from mining explosions in 1891 was the lightest yet recorded in any one year since a list was first published in 1851. Taking the last year, the deaths directly resulting from explosions of gas in mines were only about 43, against 200 in 1890 and 138 in 1889. In February two men were killed at the Beamish Pit, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Naked lights were used as the pit was considered to be a non fiery one. But the most serious explosion took place in the first half of the year, when ten men were killed at the Apedale Colliery, in North Staffordshire. Blasting was carried on, and one of the shots not going off led to the catastrophe. The jury, in returning their verdict, expressed the opinion that the management had been most lax and negligent. Five or six minor explosions took place up to the end of June, by which six lives were lost. In July one man was killed at the Home Colliery, near Pontypridd, while there was also one death from an explosion in August at Rose Colliery, Hamilton; two at Glass Houghton, near Leeds, where naked lights were used; and two each at Abercaid and Caerthilly. But the most serious explosion of the half-year took place on the last day of August at a colliery near Bristol, when ten lives were lost. The jury returned a verdict that the deaths were caused by an explosion, the gas firing back at a naked light carried by a workman. Near Wolverhampton a man was killed by a candle with which he was working falling into a powder box, and four men were suffocated from the effects of a fire in a gob at a colliery near Manchester. It will be seen from the above resume that naked lights had a great deal to do with the few explosions which took place in 1891, so that most of the deaths arising from them may well be considered as really preventable.

## CARE OF THE CASH.

Assuming that the majority of store assistants are perfectly honest, yet many retail merchants run a chance of losing considerable sums by peculations of clerks, owing to neglect to properly supervise the financial department of the business. Too great reliance may be placed in the honesty of moderately or inadequately paid young men, who would never dream of embezzlement were not temptation constantly placed in their way. Chances of "knocking down," however, are considerably reduced when the proprietor acts as his own cashier, while time is saved and mistakes less frequently occur in making change. There is a young man employed in a wholesale dry goods house in this city, in a subordinate position, who a few months ago was in possession of a grocery store in an interior town, and had built up a very good trade among the best people in the place. Profits were good and everything appeared to be progressing favorably, when suddenly the dealer failed. It was then discovered that his two clerks had been robbing him right along. There was nothing left for the unfortunate dealer but to go to work at a salary, and as his experience may be a warning to other merchants equally confident of their employees'

honesty, we publish it for their benefit. Women often make excellent cashiers and bookkeepers, and if the services of the merchant's wife or daughter or other female relative can be secured for either position, and thus enable him to give his personal attention to other branches of the business, he will do well to make use of them until his circumstances improve sufficiently to allow him to employ an outsider, who should be put under bonds to ensure the employer against loss.—*Merchant's Review*.

## A GOOD MAXIM.

Said a successful and wealthy merchant to a young man who went out of his employ to enter upon the study of a profession, "I have but one maxim for you, and that is never try to save your shoe leather, but always to be economical of the cloth that forms the seat of your trousers."

The young man pondered this bit of advice a long time, but he thinks that he never fully understood it until he had been at work in his profession for several years.

He found, indeed, that "worn-out shoe leather" was a good investment. It meant, for one thing, keeping up with the time by gaining information at first hand. If he needed any facts bearing upon his profession, he said to himself, "I can buy them with a little shoe leather," and he went out and saw the men who had the facts to give him.

If he had waited for them to come to him, probably they would never have come. He could not buy the information with pantaloons material. He saved much time by taking a little.

## NO RESPECT FOR MUSTY TRADITIONS.

"A reminiscence comes to my mind," writes Justin McCarthy in a volume of "Recollections of Parliament," about American visitors to the House of Commons. "The American girl has no respect for musty traditions. Some years ago we used to be permitted to take ladies into the library, but the rule was strict that they must not be allowed to sit down there. I was once escorting a young American married woman through the various rooms of the library, and I mentioned to her, as a matter of more or less interesting fact, that it was against the rules for a woman to sit down there."

"Is that really a law of the place?" she asked, with wide opened and innocent eyes.

"The very law," I answered.

"Then," said she, calmly, "just see me break it!" and she drew a chair and resolutely sat down at the table."

The United States Daughters of 1812 is a society which has applied for incorporation in New York state. The object of the society is to preserve records and documents, promote patriotic feeling and foster social intercourse.

Miss Curzon, of Toronto, who, for the past ten days, has been undergoing examination in the laboratory of the inland revenue department, for a certificate as public analyst, has been successful. She is the first lady in Canada to undergo examination.

## COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

There are rumors of an outbreak of Indians in New Mexico.

There were no fire escapes on the Sixth avenue side of the Hotel Royal in N. Y.

The U. S. House has adopted the resolution, for an investigation of the pension bureau.

The will of the Right Hon. W. H. Smith shows a personality amounting to over £1,500,000.

A. F. Eden has retired as land commissioner of the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway Company.

A New York paper says the Jersey Central and Lehigh Valley railroads have passed under the control of the Reading.

The U. S. House Committee on Immigration has agreed to report favorably a bill absolutely prohibiting Chinese immigration.

The Finance committee of the London City Council have decided to recommend an increase in the cost of licenses to the full amount.

Hermann Homan, managing director of the German Lloyd's Steamship Company, died from the effects of a stroke of apoplexy last week in Berlin.

Sir Richard Cartwright has been elected president of the Reform Club at Ottawa. The Ottawa Liberals think him a Jonah, and would have been glad if he had not accepted the position.

The failure of Philip Burns has been announced at the New York Stock Exchange. His liabilities amount to about \$400,000, all to personal friends, who are not desirous of pressing the claims.

Last week, another violent snowstorm visited Southern Idaho, and stockmen are discouraged over the prospect of heavy losses in cattle by starvation. The present winter is the severest ever known in Southern Idaho.

Nathan Kennedy, a well known exporter in Montreal, says that should the importation of Canadian cattle to England be prohibited, it would mean an annual loss to Canadian farmers of \$3,300,000.

The cattle disease is spreading in England, and most stringent measures are being taken to stamp out the epidemic. The import of cattle from nearly every European country has been prohibited.

The third instalment of gold from the Siberian mines for 1891 will yield a considerable sum to the Russian treasury. That government has withdrawn 25,000,000 marks from London, which along with the Siberian bullion, is deposited with bankers in Germany.

A newspaper is like an individual. If it be honest, it commands respect. We can overlook imperfections in its judgment no matter how strong its convictions, so long as it remains true to them, but once private or political jobbery gets control, its prestige is gone. The independent press is my beau ideal of journalism. A political paper, which panders to its constituency, commands less of my respect than a ward "heeler" who runs in voters at two dollars a piece. They both abandon the semblance of principle, but the bum politician and gutter snipe needs his recompense to pay for a bed and breakfast.—*Commercial Tribune*.