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Another new use has been discovered **Paper Ropes** for pulp paper, it being claimed that it is proving to be a very satisfactory material for driving ropes. At the English factories of Wolverhampton the rope is made like that from other materials, and contains three main strands, each made up of a number of continuous strips of twisted pulp paper. The material is made waterproof by treatment with boiled oil. The rope is fairly smooth and wonderfully pliant, and in recent tests for driving machinery it has been only slightly polished under conditions that have caused cotton rope to become badly worn and frayed. Its actual tensile strength is supposed to be considerably less than that of manilla rope.

The Balloon in War.

Pictures of Ladysmith show us that, whenever the wind and weather permits, the military balloon ascends from the beleaguered town, and floating in the atmosphere enables the plucky aeronauts to observe any change or movement in the Boer lines. The elaborate preparations for the present campaign on the part of President Kruger should have included the purchase of a few balloons, so that the poet's dream of future warfare could have been realized, and besiegers and besieged might have been thrilled with the sight of

"Aerial navies battling in the blue."

But perhaps the horrors of war on land and sea are enough without this addition thereto.

Our Banks and Benevolence.

Those who have been in the habit of referring to financial and trading companies as "soulless corporations" will have to change their tune. The splendid contributions of several of our banks to the Canadian Patriotic Fund prove that some corporate bodies can display an admirable public spirit. They do not permit the hat to pass them when the cause for which money is required is a deserving one. If any shareholder in a bank is sordid enough to question the right of directors to contribute from its funds to such a purpose as the one in question, he ought to be reminded that upon

the "absent-minded beggars" now fighting in South Africa depends the maintenance of the majesty and glory of the Empire to which Canada belongs. If aught occurred to remove Great Britain from her place in the van of nations, her commercial and banking interests would certainly suffer. It would, therefore, seem that contributions by our financial institutions to the Canadian Patriotic Fund are quite in order, and we hope to see the majority of the chartered banks follow the example of the leaders in this generous movement, indicating as it does that corporations have souls.

Pass the hat, for your credit's sake,
And pay, pay, pay.

The Value of a Life.

The utterances of two American judges who recently instructed juries in suits brought against railroads, warrant the inference that human life is worth little in the immediate neighbourhood of their homes. Mr. Justice Gummer of the Supreme Court of New Jersey is reported as having said to a jury:

"If a railroad company kills a child, its parents should be satisfied with one dollar damages. Children are a source of expense to their parents, and are of no pecuniary benefit."

Mr. Justice Robinson, of the Superior Court of Connecticut, seems to have an equally poor opinion of life's value. In the case tried before him, he said:—

"Provided the railroad company killed the man painlessly, \$10 is sufficient damages for his relatives. The relatives must prove that the dead man suffered pain to get more. The fact that the body is mutilated does not prove it."

We have no comment to make upon Mr. Justice Robinson's estimate of the value of a man. Human life is of little account in South Africa at present, but we wish that something would soften and humanize the heart of the cruel New Jersey judge. The child he valued at one dollar was doubtless highly prized by some one, to whom it was the prettiest, the dearest, the cleverest, in fact, the only child that was ever worth a thought.