

**AN ARITHMETICAL CURIOSITY.**

A curious combination of figures given in our last issue has excited general attention. Mr. J. P. Dumaresq has favoured us with another remarkable arithmetical exhibit. Take the following arrangement of figures, comprising all the numbers from 1 to 16, which are used only once, and they can be added in 18 different ways and yield the same product, 34, in each case.

2	8	11	13
15	9	6	4
14	12	7	1
3	5	10	16

Add the lines horizontally, perpendicularly, diagonally from corner to corner, take also the four centre figures, the four corner ones, divide the square into four equal divisions and each will add up to 34; and lastly take the two centre figures on the top and bottom line, and the two centre figures in the first and last perpendicular column, and these also yield 34 as their total.

**Notes and Items.**

CANADA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION, in 1902, is estimated by a high authority, to have had the value of \$71,600,000.

FIRE ESCAPES from each room in summer hotels are likely to be made compulsory by a Bill before the Senate, Albany.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND made a net profit of \$3,600,000 in half-year ending 28th February last. A dividend of 5 per cent. for the past half-year was declared.

MINING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.—This is a Bulletin issued by the Government of British Columbia, published in advance of the Annual Report of the Minister of mines.

THE UNION BANK.—At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Union Bank of Halifax, held on 11th ult., it was decided to apply to the Treasury Board for power to increase the capital stock from \$1,705,900 to \$3,000,000 by the issue of 25,882 shares of the par value of \$50 each.

THE INSURANCE LAW JOURNAL, March, 1903. Published by C. C. Hines Sons Co., William St., New York. This monthly journal is compiled and edited with much care by Mr. Walter S. Nicholls, and furnishes a very valuable compendium of legal cases and decisions relating to insurance.

CANADA'S COAL PRODUCTION, in 1902, was about 6½ millions of tons. Of this quantity, Cape Breton produced 3,500,000 tons, an increase of 2,500,000 tons in five years. Altogether, Nova Scotia last year, produced 4,725,480 tons of coal, which gave employment to 8,500 men and boys. Not only in coal was Nova Scotia making a name for itself, but last year it produced 214,293 short tons of pig iron, and 104,331 tons of steel of all kinds. It also produced 28,279 ounces of gold, and there were in process of construction a number of large modern plants for milling and mining on a large scale, so that a considerable increase might be looked forward to in the near future.

A GASOLINE ACCIDENT is narrated by "Insurance," which we condense. Mrs. X. put laces and gloves in a bowl of gasoline. She left it in a bath room, in two hours went to light the gas, the fumes of the gasoline took fire, and there was a lively time in subduing the flames. Mrs. X. was badly scorched, but she got a bit of valuable experience.

LOOKING AHEAD.—A tower 500 feet high is being planned by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., for the addition to that part of its building on Madison Square, which will replace Dr. Parkhurst's church. It has been intimated, says "Views," that the Metropolitan Life is perfecting arrangements whereby a good part of its industrial business will be sent in by wireless telegraphy, thereby saving time in expediting such business. Hence, the tower.

GREAT INTERIOR OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.—Of the undeveloped areas of British Columbia little is known outside the Province, yet, there is abundant evidence to show that there is a large quantity of land well adapted for settlement, especially, as the Bulletin before us says, for "grazing, dairying and stock raising, for which it is an ideal country." First-class lands are procurable at 85 per acre, second-class \$2.50, and third-class, \$1. British Columbia will have a large agricultural population some day.

TYRANNICAL INSURANCE LAW.—Time and again illustrations have been given by the actions of American legislatures, that the respect for liberty is by no means as great in the Republic as in monarchical England. A late instance is, the passage of a law by the Missouri Senate, which invests the insurance Superintendent with authority to fix the rates for fire insurance in that State. The introduction of such a Bill in the British House of Commons would probably lead to the introducer being introduced to medical experts to enquire into his mental condition, for it certainly indicates, at least, incipient lunacy. There is no more justification for a legislature to regulate the rates for fire insurance than for such a body to fix the price of wheat or any other commodity.

MESSRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH & Co., patent solicitors, Canada Life building, furnish us with the following weekly list of patents granted to Canadians in the following countries. Further information may be obtained from them direct CANADIAN PATENTS—A. H. Cook and W. H. Hood, fence posts. M. Matheson, wire stretchers. S. L. McMillan, bags. C. Wits, draft attachments for furnaces. J. B. Cryderman, vehicle body raisers. A. E. Rae, underskirts. J. Tobin, awning frames. R. Richardson, J. J. Hendrick and F. Markey, combined churns and butter worker. A. H. Brintnell, channel sectional tubular tyres. J. H. K. McCollum, steam governors for turbine engines. C. A. Hart, exhibit racks for mattresses. J. R. Irving, book binding. W. V. Brown, device for packing fruit in boxes for transportation and sale. F. W. Bindon, composition fuel. E. Dawe, sleeping berths. J. W. Bell, gas ranges. F. A. Perkins, spraying apparatus. F. Lapointe, fire escapes. T. J. Best, dumb waiters. C. D. Cutts, window screens. G. G. Bushby and R. H. Casswells, method of sealing packages. S. Smith, boiler tube stoppers. J. S. Crawford and C. W. Kinder, automatic alarms for heated journals. AMERICAN PATENTS—T. Bayley, rotary steam engine. A. J. Blair, burial casket. H. Gallinowsky, composition for an acid-proof cement. J. L. Kieffer, sole rough-rounding and channelling machine. J. G. King and J. Edwards, grain-drier. E. A. LeSueur, operating electrolytic cells. W. Stinson, nut-lock. H. Thompson, bathing machine. H. S. Worthington, car-coupling.