

AMERICAN HOPES in regard to the European demand for coal from the States are quite cloudy just now. The English Government after a trial, wishes no more American coal, and other purchasers across the Atlantic say they have no further use for it.

A FIRE AT BAKU, Russia, on 6th instant, got hold of an enormous storage of petroleum, some twelve millions of poods. The streams of blazing oil carried devastation to a wide district, causing heavy losses of life and disaster to many hundreds of families.

The Aetna is reported by "Accident Assurance" to have secured the exclusive right to work accident insurance on the lines of the Union Pacific Railway, and the railway company pays one-third of the premiums for the employee, in order to encourage him to take out protection.

THE LOSS TO SHIPPERS OF APPLES from Nova Scotia this season is said by the Maritime merchant to have been \$75,000 to \$100,000, owing to defective accommodation for fruit on board ocean steamers. Nova Scotia sold \$800,000 worth of apples in England in 1899, and only \$200,000 last year. The matter calls for the action of the Government to enforce such regulations as would prevent these heavy losses of fruit shippers to Europe.

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.—R. Damm, nails; E. Perkins, railway spikes; C. E. Harris, cattle guards; M. de K. Verbiest, gold saving process and apparatus; M. L. Flynn and J. A. Sherman, hinged couplings for locomotives; C. W. Conner, roofing tools. American Patents.—A. H. Canning, weighing machine; T. Cosens, machine for washing filled cans; T. Cosens, machine for exhausting and testing cans; A. Finch, kiln; F. J. Freese, chuck; E. A. LeSueur, extracting liquid methane from natural gas; C. Pickring, and P. Clarke, sander for rolling stock; A. M. Rush, cattle stable.

NEW WESTMINSTER was expected to rapidly decline in consequence of the great fire it experienced. The British Columbia "Review" says:—"This, however, has not proved to be the case, as the latest reports are most satisfactory, and show that business affairs in that city are prosperous. The large lumber mills have considerably increased their export trade to the Orient and this country, although there seems to have been some difficulty in procuring ships. Several new industries have been established, among others a condensed milk factory, shingle mills, automatic can factory and others. A floating dry dock has been built which is the largest one north of San Francisco, and several large brick buildings have been erected recently. An attempt is to be made to make New Westminster a port for sea-going vessels, and a great increase of transport is expected when the Great Northern Railway have extended their line to the mouth of the Fraser."

BY ITS CHARTER, THE UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION may deal in its own securities, which has not usually been regarded as a proper function of corporations, it may or may not pay any dividends on the common stock, no matter what the profits may be, and the recalcitrant stockholder will get no consideration; he can see the books as much as the statute, the board of directors or the whole body of stockholders permit. Gentlemen who buy one share for the purpose of getting access to the books of the company will have no privileges here.

WANTED for a leading Fire Insurance Company a French Inspector. Address, "The Chronicle," P.O. Box, 578 Montreal.

STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES.

Wednesday, p.m., Feb. 27, 1901.

A marked change in the tone of the market and a decided advance in prices of stocks on the general list has taken place this week. On the contrary the mining shares have all established lower quotations, especially in the case of War Eagle.

The reported absorption of the Dominion Iron and Steel Company by the Morgan syndicate was the occasion of some trading in the securities of that company both here and in Boston. The report has since been denied and at the same time re-affirmed. The New York market opened on Monday, after being closed on Friday and Saturday, with a general boom in the Steel stocks, the ground work of which had been carefully laid beforehand, and during the upward movement considerable unloading took place. The announcement of the basis on which the Steel stocks were to be taken into the new trust caused a heavy reaction, and the early gains were not retained and the stocks fell below Thursday's closing prices. The advance and subsequent heavy decline in these stocks is looked upon as a stock jobbing hold-up.

The heavy demand for money keeps rates stiff in London. International stocks at the close to-day eased off slightly from recent firmness, although Grand Trunks have advanced in price.

The quotations for call money in Montreal continue at 5 p.c., while the London rate is 4½ to 5 p.c., and the New York rate is 2 p.c.

The quotations for money at continental points are as follows:

	Market.	Bank
Paris.....	2½	3
Berlin.....	3½	4½
Hamburg.....	3½	4½
Frankfort.....	3 9-16	4½
Amsterdam.....	3½	3½
Vienna.....	3½	4½
Brussels.....	3	3½
St. Petersburg.....	7½	5½