

DWELLING FIRES.—The following remarks of the New York "Commercial Bulletin" upon the increasing number of dwelling houses destroyed by fire are worthy of careful consideration in other cities than New York:—

The unusual number of fires in expensive dwellings during the past few weeks has attracted the attention of the general public, and after each loss sensational papers indulge in mysterious hints about suspected incendiaries. It is extremely unlikely that many of these fires are due to criminal acts. The penalty for arson is too serious for the average scoundrel to risk, particularly when he has little chance of stealing anything. Contrived fires in expensive occupied dwellings are comparatively rare, and usually involve some country house whose owner is financially embarrassed. In such a case he manages to get his family out in advance of the danger.

Dwelling fires, as a general rule, are due to bad construction or careless occupants. The family building a house will spend hours planning the entrance hall, fire places, closets and a bath for every bed-room, and pay no attention whatever to the flues, the defective construction of which is responsible for so many disastrous fires. The good housewife will tramp through the entire shopping district to secure the choicest lace curtain, and then permit the gas jet to be so placed that the curtain will blow against it. The father of the family scours the furniture stores for the particular kind of leather for the furniture in the smoking room, and then permits the servants to order parlor matches instead of the "strike on the box kind."

Servants are permitted to do about as they please in matters of fire hazard. Few householders have any realization of the number of cooks who start range fires with kerosene, and nobody cares to get up at six o'clock in the morning to investigate the subject in his own home. The laundry is rarely inspected by any of the family, although one of the most likely places in which a fire may commence. Mechanics are permitted to use portable gasoline stoves and paint removers, and to leave oily rags wherever they please. Hardwood floors are continually soaked with patent polishes, which spread flames with the greatest rapidity. Altogether the matter of fires in dwellings is very carelessly handled, and it is surprising that fatalities are not more frequent rather than fewer. The prevention of such occurrences should receive careful consideration instead of being almost totally neglected.

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Tenders for Debentures.

The Council of the Town of Cobourg are prepared to receive Tenders for the purchase of Debentures of the Town authorized to be issued by the Act of 1898, Ontario, Chapter 39, amounting in the whole to the sum of \$144,000, bearing interest at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum, payable half yearly, and maturing in from 15 to 35 years.

Sealed Tenders marked "Tender for Debentures," addressed to E. C. S. Huxke, Esq., Mayor of Cobourg, will be received until 8 p.m. of Monday, the 1st of May next.

For further information, address Alexander Poe, Esq., Treasurer.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

HERBERT BOGGS,

Chairman of Finance Committee

Cobourg, 22nd March, 1899.

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