

\$250,000,000 IS PLEDGED TO REBUILD FRISCO.

Following a meeting of American multi-millionaires in the office of the United States Realty & Improvement Company, No. 111 Broadway, New York, plans are under way for the formation of a company which will stand ready to raise at least \$250,000,000 for the rebuilding of San Francisco.

Among those who attended the conference were Senator Newlands, of Nevada; H. S. Black, president of the United States Realty & Improvement Company; Frank A. Vanderlip, vice-president of the National City Bank; Franklin K. Lane, of the San Francisco Relief Committee, and Thomas Magee, of the Finance Committee of the same committee.

Mr. Black represents the great financial interests which were mainly responsible for the restoration of Baltimore after its fire. Mr. Lane's appointment as a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission is now pending before the Senate. The vast financial interests represented by the National City Bank are back of Mr. Vanderlip's participation in the project.

The plan is not a charitable scheme, nor yet an act of relief, but a well considered and thoroughly business-like proposition, conceived by California and Wall street financiers, with a view to offering gilt edge and high dividend paying investments for the idle millions of the East.

According to the tentative programme, at least \$250,000,000 will be subscribed by backers of the colossal undertaking. As Senator Newlands and his San Francisco conferees admitted, however, the actual sum involved may reach \$350,000,000 or \$400,000,000 before the new San Francisco rises from the ashes.

Senator Newlands said:

"I do not wish to state the exact complexion of the corporation which we believe will be founded. It is enough at the present to assert that it will be founded upon the broadest and soundest principles, will be an investment which will prove attractive not only to the banker and great capitalist, but also to the people at large who seek a profitable investment for their savings.

"The plan does not involve any guaranty of the city of San Francisco or State of California, for we believe the realty of San Francisco will be ample guarantee and security for all money invested in the county. The plan, broadly, is to incorporate, enabling subscribers to create a fund which shall be used through the agents of the corporation resident in San Francisco, in lending money upon the realty, which is worth as much today as upon the day before the earthquake.

"It is well known that the records of realty were preserved intact, and that titles are perfect. Ready money should be available before the great bulk of the insurance policies are paid over. As to whether the corporation will be limited to a short term of years or will be made practically perpetual, as a permanent investment, I cannot say.

"Suitable laws will be passed and the people are enthusiastically going ahead, and not a dissenting voice will be raised to any arrangement which may be demanded, which shall be fair, in the line of safeguarding investment. San Francisco does not come here a suppliant, but offering a legitimate investment, which is a good thing and will take rank at the top of financial properties."—*Architects and Builders Journal*.

The Builders' Supply and Construction Company of Calgary, have purchased the wood working factory in Didsbury, Alta., and intend manufacturing cement block, brick, tile and sewer pipe.

The plant of the Peterborough Sandstone Brick Company, is completed and is turning out an average of 20,000 bricks a day, which is its full capacity. The new industry is located in one of the finest sand beds in Canada, and the property includes about 12 acres south of the city. The officers of the company are; President, Mr. J. J. English, Hastings; vice-president, Mr. J. J. Hartley; secretary, Mr. R. A. Elliott and R. Hardstone, of Warkworth. Mr. Hardstone is the general manager of the company. Mr. F. M. Sears, formerly of Saginaw, Mich., the home of sandstone bricks in America is the superintendent.

ARCHITECTS' ASSOCIATION.

The formation of an association of architects and structural engineers in Western Canada has long been felt necessary, and steps for such an organization have been taken. The proposed name of the association is the Western Canada Architectural association. It will be composed of honorary members, active members and probationary members. The latter class has been made purposely to allow the draughtsmen to be enrolled as members of the association, and should be a great help to them. A Dominion charter will likely be procured, and all architects, structural engineers and draughtsmen from Port Arthur to the Pacific coast will be eligible to membership. The association will not interfere with or be in opposition to any local or provincial organization, but will itself endeavor to form the membership into provincial and town branches.

HOW TO FIND A GAS LEAK.

The folly of hunting for a leak in a gas pipe with a lighted match is not so much because of the danger of an explosion as of other damage, as is shown by the experience of a West Philadelphia householder recently. One or two small leaks were detected by going over all the pipes and holding a lighted match to them. The smell of gas ceased, but was replaced a few hours later by the smell of burning wood. Another visit to the cellar showed a charred floor joist a little distance above a gas pipe. There was no apparent cause for this until a very close examination discovered that a tiny jet of gas was issuing from the pipe beneath the beam. It was lighted, but was so small as to be blue in color and nearly invisible. It had been lighted by the match used in the first investigation, but had not been noticed. "If that leak had happened to be in a lead joint instead of an iron connection," said a gas man, "there would probably have been work for the fire department. The smallest possible jet of lighted gas issuing through lead will in time heat and melt the lead and make the leak larger, until a big flame is issuing. This may make a fire hours later, in the dead of night or at a time when no one is in the house. The only proper way to look for these very small leaks is to paint the suspected pipe with a smooth soap lather. Just as in the case of a bicycle tire, the tiniest leak will blow a bubble in the lather, and there you are."—*Architect and Builders' Journal*.

HOW TO COOL A CELLAR.

A great mistake is sometimes made in ventilating cellars and milk houses. The object of ventilation is to keep the cellars cool, sweet and dry, but this object often fails of being accomplished by a common mistake, and instead the cellar is made both warm and damp. A cool place should never be ventilated, unless the air admitted is cooler than the air within, or is at least as cool as that, or a very little warmer. The warmer the air, the more moisture it holds in suspension. Necessarily, the cooler the air, the more this moisture is condensed and precipitated. When a cool cellar is aired on a warm day, the entering air being in motion appears cool, but as it fills the cellar the cooler air with which it becomes mixed chills it, the moisture is condensed, and dew is deposited on the cool walls, and may often be seen running down them in streams. Then the cellar is damp and soon becomes mouldy. To avoid this, the windows should only be open at night, and late—the last thing before retiring. There is no need to fear that the night air is unhealthy—it is as pure as the air of midday, and is really drier. The cool air enters the apartment during the night, and circulates through it. The windows should be closed before sunrise in the morning, and kept closed and shaded through the day. If the air of the cellar is damp, it may be thoroughly dried by placing in it a peck of fresh lime in an open box. A peck of lime will absorb about seven pounds, or more than three quarts of water, and in this way a cellar or milk room may soon be dried, even in the hottest weather.—*Engineering Review*.