ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

Quite a number of gentlemen attended an exhibition of the Edison Electric Company's system of incandescent lights at the Hotel Vendome last evening. The hotel has within the last 10 days been provided with 69 of the lights, each having a power of 16 candles, and the large dining room, where 50 of the lights have been adjusted to the ordinary gas chandeliers, presented a most attractive appearance, the illumination being as strong and steady as could be desired. In addition to those in the dining hall, other lights in the form of drop burners, student lamps, and an elevator light (the first electric light ever used for an elevator) have been placed in the hotel, and many pleasant words are spoken of this new and decidedly modern innovation. Mr William W. Munroe, the Boston agent of the company, under whose direction last night's exhibition was given, says the Edison Company now can fairly claim that it has passed its experimental age, and with its system perfect in all details, is now really achieving high practical results. The incandescent light, he adds, as used by the Pemberton, Arlington, Merrimac and Worrumbo mills, and by numerous prominent business houses throughout New England, is daily proving that it is superior to gas in all ways, while at the same time more economical. Last night's exhibition was certainly a successful one, and the display made by this light gives promise of its widespread use at no distant day.—Boston *Herald*.

CANNOT AFFORD IT.

Among the common objections met by solicitors for life insurance is the remark, "cannot afford it." If this was really the case, certainly it might be a good argument against taking out a policy, for unless one can pay the premiums without inconvenience, or depriving others of their just due, it would be foolish to undertake it; but this can hardly be considered when we look at the real cost. A party age 25, can secure a policy for $1,000 for $20 per year; at age 30, for $22.78 per year; at age 40, for $31.46 per year; at age 50, at $65.56 yer year. There are few persons who cannot afford to lay aside a sufficient amount to carry at least a policy for $1,000 for the benefit of his dear ones. No business man can afford to go a day without the protection which a life insurance policy guarantees. No father can afford to go a moment without a policy for benefit of those who make his home the happiest place on earth. Don't say you "cannot afford it," for it reflects upon your business judgment and personal ability. Show your wisdom and regard for those you love, by taking a policy in the UNION MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

With 30 years' experience, and so marked evidences of prosperity, with a present actual surplus over all liabilities, according to the Massachusetts standard, of a quarter of a million of dollars, and according to the New York standard a surplus of more than one-half million, and with the advantage of the Maine non-forfeiture law, together with the new and definite contract, the UNION MUTUAL life insurance company is certainly in a position to demand the attention of those desiring life insurance. It certainly has many very attractive features. The policy contract is a model for clearness and fair dealing and absolute protection to policy holders. The business policy of President DeWitt, of marking assets down to real worth, so that figures represent actual value, of to-day only, can but meet the approval of every true business man, and secure the confidence of every policy holder. Could this principle of valuation have been adopted, by all life insurance companies in the past, very few, if any, failures would have been recorded in the history of life insurance in this country.

THE UNION MUTUAL pays its death losses promptly, upon their approval by the loss committee, without waiting the customary 90 days, and without rebate of interest.—*Com.*

THE MARITIME BANK.

We understand that a considerable number of shares have changed hands since the disposal of the Albert Railway bonds, the sale of which was lately announced in our columns. As the purchasers are men of means and influence likely to strengthen the proprietary and thus bring the business and increased confidence to the bank, this sale is considered a desirable thing in the bank's interest. The price is said to have been $50 per share. Besides the shares taken up in this city, some have been bought by Sackville and Fredericton capitalists. The bank has decided to open a branch in Fredericton at once, probably on Monday first, induced, no doubt, to do so by the fact not only that the shareholders there have solicited this, but guaranteed to give the bank business and make the branch profitable and successful. The banks appear to be opening agencies all over this Province. We trust this step on the part of one of our own Province banks will meet with success.—St. John, N.B., *Globe* of Saturday.

STEAM SUPERSEDED—PERHAPS.

The supersedence of steam by some new and cheaper power, has long occupied the attention of scientists and mechanicians both in this country and Europe. The latest result of investigation and experiment in this direction has been furnished by J. R. Blumenburg, a resident of Philadelphia. He claims to have discovered an agent for the production of power in comparison with which steam sinks into insignificance. The material from which the power is generated is bisulphide of carbon, a compound discovered in 1796 by Lampodious Blumenburg has constructed a box-shaped generator of cast-iron, its dimensions being about four feet high and two feet wide. It consists of two parts, joined together vertically, the lower portion being simply a nest of tubular chambers to which the heat is applied. The upper half of the generator is dome-shaped, and into this the bisulphide is injected through a tube in the top. The tube is so constructed that the qualified compound enters the chamber in a spray, and is converted into a vapor by a temperature of 180 degrees Fahrenheit. The bisulphide is supplied by a cylindrical tank which holds eighty pounds of the compound. The vapor passes from the generator into the steam chest of the engine and moves the piston rods the same as though the steam were applied. After having performed its function the exhaust vapor is carried through a condenser back to the tank, which it reaches in a liquid form and is again ready for use. It is said that owing to the peculiar properties of bisulphide, an ordinary house fire would develop sufficient power to propel the largest of ocean steamers. The motor power is now in operation in Philadelphia, and has been visited by scientific men and mechanicians.

THE STOCK MARKET.

The following table shows the highest and lowest prices of stocks on the Montreal Stock Exchange on each day of the week ended 20th July, 1882, and the number of shares reported as sold during the week.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.	Share.	Capital Paid up.	Rest.	Fri. L.	Fri. H.	Sat. No Board. L.	Sat. No Board. H.	Mon. L.	Mon. H.	Tues. L.	Tues. H.	Wed. L.	Wed. H.	Thurs. L.	Thurs. H.	Total Trans.
Bank of Montreal....	$200	$11,999,200	$5,500,000		207½			208½	209¼	208½	208¾	208¼	209½	209¼	210¼	1034
Merchants Bank....	100	5,614,570	525,000		127¼			127	128				127¼	128½	128¾	1232
Canadian B'k of Com.	50	6,000,000	1,400,000		141¾				142¼			141	141¾	142¼	143	757
Bank of Toronto......	100	2,000,000	660,000		181½				182				182½	185½	186	402
Ontario Bank	40	2,998,280	100,000												126	100
Banque du Peuple....	50	1,600,000	240,000										89			21
Bank British North A	£50	4,866,666	1,216,000													
Molson's Bank........	50	2,000,000	140,000													
Dominion Bank......	50	970,250	415,000													
Federal Bank........	100	1,367,200	300,000													
Imperial Bank of C..	100	1,000,000	175 000													
Banque Jac's Cartier.	25	500,000														
Quebec Bank.........	100	2,500,000	325,000													
Banque Nationale...	50	2,000,000	150,000													
Eastern Townships..	50	1,392,787	220,000													
Union Bank..........	100	1,995,510	18,000													
Exchange Bank......	100	500,000	200,000								94¼					8
Banque d'Hochelaga.		680.060														
Maritime Bank......	100	697,800														
Montreal Tel. Co......	40	2,000,000	171,432	130¼	130¾				130¾	131	131½	130½	131		131	785
Dominion Tel. Co....	50	711,709														
Rich. & Ont. Nav. Co.	100	1,565,000	21,704		73				73			71½	72½	72½	72¾	855
City Pass. Ry. Co....	50	6.0,000							147		147¼		147		147½	475
City Gas Co..........	40	1,800,000		167¼	167¾			169	169¾				168¾	171½	171½	1040
Canada Cotton Co....	100															
Royal Canadian In. Co	50															
Dominion 5 p.c......																
Mont. 5 p.c. Stock. .																
Ont. Investment Ass.		100,000	100,000													
Loan & Mortgage....	100	612,532	64,000													
Mont. Building Ass..	50	481,027														
St. Paul M.& M. R'way	100			134¾	135¼			139	140	139	139½	141	142			675
Graphic Printing Co..																
Canada Shipping Co..																
Montreal Cotton Co..																
Dundas Cotton Co....																
Canada Paper Co....																
Canada Central Bonds																
Champlain & St. L. "																

FIRES IN JUNE.

The N. Y. *Bulletin*, of Tuesday, publishes its usual monthly list of fires in the United States and Canada at which the loss was not less than $10,000. June was 138, and the loss by them over $600,000. Of fires whose destructiveness was between $10,000 and $20,000 each, there were 61; there were 20 where the loss was between $20,000 and $30,000; 17 between $30,000 and $50,000; 20 between $50,000 and $75,000; 10 between $75,000 and $100,000; 8 between $100,000 and $200,000; 1 fire of $500,000; and 1 of $750,000. Of these fires those in Canada, as respects locality and description, are stated as *follows:*—

Locality and Description.	Loss $	Insurance. $
So. Quebec, railway station, &c...	100,000	......
Fredericton, N. B., planing mill, &c....	14,000	......
Montreal *Herald* building........	60,000	55,000
Montreal stores....................	750,000	510,000
St. John, N. B., Lithograph Co., &c.	12,000	8,000
Cote St. Louis, P.Q., various......	50,000	......
Toronto, Can., Publishing Co,....	75,000	75,000
St. Mary's, N.B., various.........	40,000	15,000
Portland, N. B., various..........	20,000	5,000
Halifax, N.S., barque Wild Hunter.	150,000	150,000
Trenton, Ont., lumber............	100,000	100,000
Portland N.B., furniture factory...	20,000	7,000

We have here losses to the extent of $1,341,000, with insurance to the amount of $425,000 in Canada. This is not at all creditable, as it is over 20 per cent. of the total loss, while our people are not ten per cent. of the total population. The total is bad, but our share of it is worse than bad. On the total the *Bulletin* comments as follows:—

If due allowance is made for the fires of less magnitude than $10,000, and for the many fires whose occurence has escaped record in our own files or those of our exchanges, it is reasonable to estimate the fire waste of June at $7,500,000. This would bring the month's volume of loss higher than in any year since June 1877, when the St. John conflagration impressed itself so memorably upon the record of American fires; but, deducting that fire, June, 1879, would take the lead. For example: June, 1881, loss, $6,093,300; 1880, $5,696,800; 1879, $7,020,100; 1878, $4,941,400; 1877, (omitting St. John), $7,000,000. This gives an average of little more than $6,000,000 for each June of the five years previous to 1882, and including June 1822, this average is less than $6,500,000. It will be seen, therefore, that as a people we are "getting no better fast" in the matter of common sense precaution against this fiery waste.

RAILWAY GARDENING.

If our railway companies would employ a forester and gardener or two, they might employ their thousands of acres of waste lands for crops, grass, fruit trees and so on, with profit, so that they could afford to refuse to be any longer in the position of the poor shopkeeper or barber who fills his shop and pastes his walls over with advertisements and placards because he cannot make two ends meet without the small sums obtained by this disfigurement. At present our railway companies allow their stations and bridges to be so hideously pasted and papered over that the property has the appearance of the last stages of struggling poverty. In many parts of Belgium the land has been planted with fruit trees and other things many years, and in Wurtemberg for about twelve years past a forester has had charge of the lands. He pays particular attention to planting the slopes of excavations and embankments to prevent washing and slipping, grows quick fences, and, where, practicable, fruit and timber trees. The gardens at the stations are largely devoted to fruit, and so made useful and ornamental at once. A profit of about 14s. an acre has, it is said, been made for the past five years on the ground so utilized.—*London Engineer.*

RAILWAY STATISTICS.

Statistics have been published at Berne of the telegraphic system of Europe, which show the following impressive facts:—In length of lines Russia is first, with 50,000 miles; Germany is next, with 44,265; France has 43,650; Austria-Hungary, 31,015; Great Britain, 26,465; Italy, 16,430; Sweden and Norway, 12,625; Switzerland, 4,097; and Belgium, 3,505. In length of wires, however, Germany stands first, having 159,910 miles; Russia is second, with 134,466; France third, with 125,265, and then follows Great Britain with 121,720; Austria-Hungary with 89,960; Italy with 53,692; Sweden and Norway with 28,445; Belgium with 16,346; and Switzerland with 10,010. Russia's length of wires, as will be seen, is much less in proportion to her length of lines than that of most other countries, a fact which the geographical nature of the country will easily explain. England for instance, has $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire to every mile of line. For messages sent the figures are these:—England, 29,820,445; France, 19,882,-628; Germany, 16,312,457; Austria-Hungary, 8,729,321; Russia, 7,298,422; Italy, 8,511,497; Holland, 3,109,230; and Sweden and Norway, 2,028,805. England on this reckoning, therefore surpasses Russia by more than four times as many messages, and has nearly double the number that Germany has.

DRINK REFORM IN ENGLAND.—The highest sum contributed to the English Treasury in any one year by alcohol was £30,000,000 paid in 1874. In 1881 this had fallen to £28,500,000. Thus in seven years, although the population has increased by 2,000,000, the revenue from intoxicants has diminished by £2,500,000. According to this the alcoholic tax fell off from 20s a head in 1874 to 16s 6d. in 1881, a reduction of about 18 per cent. Another way of ascertaining the rise and fall of the consumption of intoxicants is afforded by the Statistical Abstracts, from which there seems to be a reduction in consumption of from 16 to 17 per cent. We may therefore, take it as proved that Englishmen on an average drink at least 17 per cent. less alcoholic beverages than they did in 1874-5.

WINE ADULTERATION.—A wine merchant at Neustadt, Germany, was recently fined $2,500, had his entire stock confiscated, and was sent to prison for three years and a half for making a certain quantity of wine out of substances innocent in themselves but bearing no relationship to the grape.