

A NEW MODE OF SAVING LIFE.

Solid shot popping into the windows of burning houses, with long life lines trailing behind them, are to be a spectacular feature of fires in Brooklyn in the future. Each hook and ladder truck hereafter is to carry a small gun mounted near the driver's seat. Each gun weighs about fifteen pounds. A shot, to which a strong life line is attached, lies in the muzzle, with the rope coiled behind it. A cartridge is used to discharge the shot, and the force of the explosion is sufficient to throw a line over the highest building in the city. In tenement house fires, where the escape of tenants is cut off from below, the lines will be thrown into windows.

CHANGING SIDES.

It is said that since the recently enacted anti-pass law went into effect in Wisconsin fully 100 notaries public have resigned their offices, in order to retain their railroad passes. This law, as readers will recall, prohibits the use of railway passes by all State officials, and the Attorney General of the State has decided that notaries public come within the meaning of the law. Those resigning are chiefly lawyers who have heretofore enjoyed free transportation on the railroads and who now find it more profitable to accept the courtesies of the railway companies than to remain in the service of the State. Thus it happens that the law "kills two birds with one stone."

NATIONAL BOARD FIRE UNDERWRITERS.

At the thirty-third annual meeting of the National Board of Fire Underwriters of the United States, held in New York some days ago, the president, Mr. E. C. Irvin, reviewed the conditions of fire underwriting in that country during twelve months past, and spoke at some length on the New York rate war. He believed that the New York Tariff Association was not organized any too soon to prevent general demoralization. The usual reports were read, and the Executive Committee was instructed to appoint a committee with power to take such steps with committees from the Western Union, South-Western Tariff Association and other similar organizations, as that the rules of the Board shall be binding on all the members. A resolution was passed that the Executive Committee be empowered at its discretion, and at the expense of the Board, to defend any suit against any company where the maintenance of a principle of importance may be involved. It was afterwards modified so that no member who objected to any particular suit being brought should be compelled to contribute towards the expense of bringing it.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected, as under: E. C. Irvin, president; George P. Sheldon, vice-president; Robt. B. Beath, secretary; F. W. Arnold, treasurer; Executive Committee, H. E. Bowers, chairman; W. N. Kremer, W. W. Underhill, John S. Washburn, R. Dale Benson, James Nichols, A. W. Damon, John E. McElroy, H. F. Atwood, E. L. Ellison and H. H. Hall.

—Promptitude in Business.—Stranger. —"What do you value your white cow at?" Farmer Furrow. —"She ain't worth \$10. Taxing cows this year?" Stranger. —"I am not the assessor. I am an official of the Quick Time Railroad. Your cow was killed this morning. Here's the \$10. Good-day."—N.Y. Weekly.

—A New Rating.—"I see," said the visitor to the commercial company's office, "that you have a new rating in your reference book. Some men are marked 'U. S. S.' " "Yes," said the manager, "money comes in so fast these days that we have run out of ratings above 'A 1.' We now indicate those who are rich enough to go to the United States Senate."—Puck, New York.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL:

MONTREAL, May 17th, 1899.

Stocks.	Highest.	Lowest.	Total.	Closing Prices.		Average, same date 1898.
				Sellers.	Buyers.	
Montreal ... xd	248	248	23	260		235
Ontario.....xd	124	124	1			
Molson's.....	198	198	15			200
Toronto.....xd						235
J. Cartier.....xd				108	100	100
Merchants.....xd				167		180
do. cash	174	174	66			
Commerce.....	153	153	35			
do.xd	151	161	25	151		135
Union.....xd						103
Hochelaga.....						157
Nationale.....				98	93	
Ville Marie.....						90
M. Telegraph.....	175	175	100	180	175	173
R. & O. Nav.	113	112	875	114	113	96
Street Ry.	327	319	2358	326	345	249
do. New.....	321	317	1639	323	321	
Gas.....	263	204	258	203	202	182
C.P.R.	98	97	8920	93	92	82
Bell Tele.	180	180	25	180	181	170
Mont. 4% stock						

MINNESOTA FLAX.

Experiments with flax in Minnesota are reported to be as promising as like attempts in Oregon in the cultivation of this fibre plant. The Minnesota experiments are being conducted by Prof. Hays, of the State Agricultural College, in the hope of reviving the industry in the state, which was abandoned by the discouraged farmers some years ago, after it had been followed long enough to bring about the establishment in the state of five fibre mills. The results of Prof. Hays' experiments thus far have given very satisfactory results. In order to produce a superior fibre the experimenter mingled some of the native with Russian flaxseed. An average increase of seven and one-half inches in height has been attained, with a great improvement in the fiber over the parent yield. In seed production, too, encouraging results have been obtained, a plant being produced by interbreeding that is far bushier than any produced elsewhere. These seed bushes are shorter than those grown for fibre, but the stalks could be used to advantage for fibre, thus affording a doubling profit. Of equal interest with the foregoing to the farmer is the further statement by Prof. Hays that his experiments show that a crop of flax takes only about the same fertilizing elements from the land as does a good crop of wheat.

PULP IN CANADA.

We understand that a syndicate in this country has recently been formed with the object of developing the wood pulp industry with Canada and the United Kingdom, says the British Timber Trades Journal. Hitherto the bulk, we might almost say the entire trade in wood pulp paper, has been in the hands of the United States. The manufacturers in New York State get the logs suitable for the purpose from Canada, which in the raw are admitted duty free, and a very important trade is fostered. The new company will, if successful, work a considerable change in this respect, and where they succeed others will follow, till the trade becomes practically absorbed by the Canadians, who will be able to undersell the New

York manufacturers by the transit cost of the logs. The new undertaking has so far progressed that the syndicate have obtained a concession from the Government in the province of Quebec, and a pulp mill, with abundant water power, is ready to begin work. The enormous demand in Europe for paper made from wood has for years been fully appreciated by the Swedes and Norwegians, and the wood pulp industry forms a highly-important export of Scandinavia. We shall be glad to see it shared by our Northern colonies, who have all the elements at hand for carrying it on.

BRITISH COLUMBIA SILVER LEAD MINES.

On Monday evening, the 8th inst., the Silver Lead Miners' Association of British Columbia held its final organization meeting at Sandon. The preliminary organization work has been going on for some time, but on Monday evening everything was completed, and it was decided to ask the Legislature for a special charter of incorporation. Officers were elected, as follows: President, H. B. Alexander, manager of Ruth mines, Sandon; vice-president, J. Roderick Robertson, general manager London and B. C. Goldfields, Nelson; George O. Buchanan, president of Kaslo Board of Trade; Frank A. Wood, general manager Last Chance mine, Sandon; C. Hand, manager of the Payne mine, Sandon; James Cronyn, manager of St. Eugene mine, Moyie; H. L. Barasch, manager of the Silver Cup mine, Revelstoke; S. S. Fowler, consulting engineer and superintendent for the Whitewater mines, Whitewater; directors: P. J. Hickey, Minnesota Silver Co., Ivanhoe mine, Sandon; B. J. Perry, general manager, Noble Five mine, Cody; B. C. Riblet, Slocan Sovereign, Sandon; J. A. Wright, Ajax mine, Sandon; G. Brown, Queen Bess mine, Three Forks; George Hughes, Idaho mine, Three Forks; J. M. Harris, Reco mine, Sandon.

CONSULT YOUR CUSTOMER'S TASTE.

I came across some sensible remarks in an exchange—I think it was the Monetary Times, a Canadian print, I believe. It would do no harm for our reporters to read these remarks, and all others, too, from the colonies, as they voice public opinion.

There is no doubt that it is quite true "that a manufacturer had better make what his customers want, and not try forcing them to buy what he offers." This seems only sensible, and yet how much good trade is lost simply because we do not follow this good idea out.

I think we might do more business amongst buyers in foreign lands if we paid more attention to the wishes of customers. Samples of paper could be retained and marked with all the various petty local fancies, and then a parcel could be properly despatched.

We don't do this sufficiently in detail. When I was in the West Indies, I observed that most of the trade was done with American houses, because the storekeepers said that they always got what they wanted—which meant the special goods that were ordered.

If a Colonial buyer wants a good, sound, writing paper, in five-quire packets, he does not expect a common 2½d. printing cut up, or a very low, common, 2½d. paper in a dirty, common wrapper. It would be far better to send him out paper of not less quality than 6d. per lb. at least.

The natives know very well what they buy, although home dealers give them no credit for any such thing. I have