

MAKING THE SAFE SAFE.

"I had just come back to the store from my lunch one day," said the merchant, "when a middle-aged man with a hardup look entered my private office after me. The object of his call was to strike me for half a dollar, and I am surprised yet that I didn't at once turn him down. I guess it was because he had the look of a first-class mechanic out of a job, and because trade was rushing with me. To accede to his request I had to open my big safe, and as I handed him two quarters he thanked me and added: 'Excuse me, sir, but isn't that safe of yours too dead easy?'"

"How do you mean?" I asked.

"Why, it's a four-number combination, but you have it set only to two. I think I could open it in a couple of minutes."

"If you can I'll give you \$5," I said, feeling a little nettled at his disparagement. I shut and locked the door and stood back for him, and in less than forty seconds he had swung it open.

"I told you it was dead easy, he said, without a smile.

"But how did you get on to the combination?"

"Oh, it's intuition, I guess. Better call in a man and have the lock set on four numbers. It could be opened then, but it might take an hour or two. Thanks again, and good day."

"I didn't let the grass grow under my feet," continued the merchant, "and from that day on I carried a heap less money in the safe. The man might have been a mechanic, but somehow I've always had the idea that he was a safe-cracker, and that I made a good investment when I handed him over that \$5.50. He might have got \$2,000 that night as easy as rolling off a log."—Detroit Free Press.

—The President of the United States dismissed the Governor of Oklahoma for broodling, or getting a rake-off on public contracts. This is what the President says about such things: "A sound rule of public policy and morals forbids a public servant from seeking or accepting any personal benefit in a transaction wherein he has a public duty to perform."

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, Jan. 15th, 1902.

Ashes.—Business continues very limited, being confined to a few small transactions in first quality pots at \$4.45 to \$4.50; seconds, pots quote at \$4 to \$4.05; pearls, \$6.50 to \$7. The stock in store is about 50 barrels.

Cements and Firebricks.—There is some little business doing in firebricks, for the repairs usual in foundries, etc., at this time of the year, but for cements there is no demand. Quotations continue steady, as follows: Belgian cement, \$1.90 to \$2; German, \$2.35 to \$2.50; English, \$2.30 to \$2.45; American, \$2.35 to \$2.50; Canadian, Beaver brand, \$1.90; Star, \$2.20; Silicas, \$2.10; firebricks, \$17.50 to \$23.

Dairy Products.—Fine new creamery makes of butter are scarce, and prices are firm at 20¾ to 21c.; seconds, 20 to 20½c. There is some export enquiry for dairy, and quotations for these goods are steady at 15½ to 16½c. In cheese the amount of actual business is moderate, but prices are firm, and holders do not seem to be at all anxious sellers, claiming that business has transpired at figures above the cabled quotation from Liverpool. We

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 " 533 Board of Trade Building, 42 St. Sacrament Street—Henry Briggs, Supt.
 Ottawa, Canada—Metropolitan Life Building, Metcalfe and Queen Streets—Geo. E. C. Thornton, Supt.
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