

dentally shot and killed by Brown, and that his body had been buried near Medicine Lodge. An investigation was made, and the body of a man dressed in Hillmon's clothes was declared to be that of Hillmon. The insurance companies believed Hillmon was alive, and unearthed evidence which seemed to show that Brown and Hillmon had schemed to defraud them. On that account they refused to pay the claims.

Twenty years of litigation before six courts of law! If Hillmon, the trapper, is really mouldering in the grave near Medicine Lodge, his spirit is probably greatly disturbed at the study, ability, eloquence, knowledge, and intellect which have been expended in surmounting the difficulties, contingencies, masterly fictions and forms of procedure arising from the unwillingness of the insurance companies to believe the story of his sudden departure from Wichita and the Western Hemisphere. The case is surely one where a medium might be employed to ascertain if John W. Hillmon is in the spirit world.

**Another Notable Law Suit.** Late American papers also give the decision in a law suit which promised to become as celebrated as the Hillman case. The Union Central Life Insurance Company were the defendants in the suit, and the amount involved was \$10,000. The question to be decided was whether the insured, W. F. Skipper, a rich planter, committed suicide or was murdered. Skipper was found dead, with his throat cut, in 1896. The New York "Post" says:—"In one of his hands was a knife, which led to the suspicion that he had killed himself. Afterwards, foul play was charged, and four negroes were placed under arrest. They were lynched before their cases were finally disposed of." In the meantime, the widow instituted suit for the recovery of two policies. The company resisted payment on the grounds that the assured committed suicide and was not murdered. After two mistrials, the jury has decided that the man was murdered, and consequently that the beneficiary is entitled to recover the amount of the policies.

#### **Salaries of Civic Officials.**

The decision of the Montreal aldermen to yield to public opinion of their contemplated action in dealing with the salaries of civic officials has been well received, even by those who are thoroughly in accord with any movement having for its object the removal of useless and incompetent officials. That our representatives at the City Council should hesitate before subjecting the old and respected public servants who are entrusted with the money, and are expected to uphold the reputation of the metropolis, to the humiliation of a reduction in salaries, is creditable to the better judgment of second thoughts; that they should also refrain from discharging any of those who occupy posts of minor importance in the city's service at this inclement and festive season of the year is

attributable to the good impulses arising from that human sympathy with which our civic fathers are filled.

#### **Progressive Canada.**

The first run of molten metal at the new blast furnace of the Canada Iron Furnace Company, Limited, on Tuesday last at Midland, Ontario, was an event of no small importance. The addition of this new and valuable enterprise to the industries of the Dominion cannot fail to be gratifying to those who are watching with pleased surprise the progress of our country. It is an additional source of gratification to learn that the Midland works, building, machinery, etc., were planned and installed by a Canadian engineer, viz., Mr. John J. Drummond, and, according to most competent judges, the work has been splendidly carried out. With the exception possibly of the Radnor Forges, Midland is the only modern iron smelter in the Dominion that has been planned and erected by a Canadian.

In describing the ore supplies, the Montreal "Gazette" says:—

"Among the directors and shareholders of the Canada Iron Furnace Company are men, who, from the first day they took an interest in the iron industry of the Dominion, determined that if the enterprise was to be worth anything to the country, it should be built up on the basis of using Canadian ores. The record at Radnor Forges has shown that they have followed this policy, and in doing so have accomplished a great deal in developing the natural resources of the country. In locating their new works at Midland, they had the advantage of being able if they found it necessary and desirable at any time, to secure unlimited supplies of suitable ores from the United States side of Lake Superior, and that they were in closer proximity to the United States mines than any of their competitors. But they established an exploration department for the purpose of exploiting the native mineral lands to the west and north, and entered into an alliance with Mr. F. H. Clergue, who, at the head of a syndicate of capitalists at Sault Ste. Marie, had discovered, and was opening up the now famous "Helen" mine at Michipicoten, followed later by the discovery and developments of the "Josephine," and other equally important mines in that district. The Canada Iron Furnace Company entered into arrangements with Mr. Clergue for a supply of ore, and so successfully was this arrangement carried out that before the close of navigation this year, upwards of a quarter of a million dollars' worth of Canadian ore, of a quality equal to anything obtainable on the continent, was stacked on the company's dock, immediately alongside the smelter."

The proceedings of the eventful day appear to have been in keeping with the occasion. The town of Midland was "en fete," and what, with presentations, speeches, and the interesting spectacle afforded at the blast furnaces when the first bars of pig iron were moulded to the satisfaction of everybody present, the visitors were exceedingly well entertained.

The official launching of the new industry was