

The attention of all short-sighted traders, who are doing business without carrying sufficient insurance on their stock, may well be called to the fact that their demands for credit are not likely to be acceded to in the absence of such a security against loss to the wholesaler. Many merchants, says a contemporary, while making a practice of insuring, often allow a few days to elapse at the expiration of their policies before renewing them. It is generally the unexpected that happens, and dealers who neglect this important duty run a great risk, and are likely to suffer the penalty sooner or later.

A novel claim has been made by a Napa (Cal.) County man, who recently lost his house by an explosion of gunpowder. He and his sons traced a skunk to the cellar beneath the house, and presently saw the animal crouching

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in a dark corner. Levelling a shotgun at the intruder, the man fired, but unluckily the charge entered a forgotten can of blasting powder, and an explosion followed. The dwelling was undermined and a large portion of it was blown into kindling wood. The man and his sons were severely burned and otherwise injured by the concussion. No fire followed, but a claim was subsequently presented to an insurance company for damages. The Napa man had not read his policy. His only consolation for his loss and sufferings will be the fact that he killed the skunk.

The late Matthew H. Gault, whose death at the age of sixty-six, is reported on Wednesday, was one of several well-known and esteemed brothers who have made their mark in the business world of Montreal. He came to Canada more than forty years ago and devoted most of his time to the insurance business. For nearly thirty years he represented

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the British America Fire, at his death he was senior partner in Gault & Tatley, agents of the Royal and had been vice-president of the Sun Life besides being president of or director in several commercial or financial concerns. In 1878 and again in 1882 he was elected to represent Montreal West in the House of Commons. This position, added to his various business engagements, occasioned drafts upon his unusual stock of energy, which rendered him more or less of an invalid during several past years.

Mr. Stewart Browne, Canadian manager of the Glasgow and London Insurance Co., has left Montreal, we understand, to spend a month among the company's agencies in the North-west and on the Pacific coast.

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