

if I knew of any way to stop it I would do so, for it is a death trap. There ought to be a law forbidding the sale of second-hand boilers unless they are properly inspected and tested, and their working pressure fixed by men who understand their business and are honest. I feel that if this boiler goes into use, and as much as 80 pounds of steam is carried on it, as I understand is to be required of it, it will certainly be the death of some poor fellows." Mr. Granberg was a prophet.

How many cities and towns are there, like New York, or even provinces, where there are no laws requiring the frequent inspection of boilers by competent men, who, as Mr. Granberg puts it, "are honest?" In New York an exploded boiler goes hurtling through a crowded street, carrying death and destruction with it; and, according to the Chief Boiler Inspector of that city, there are hundreds of boilers there which are never officially inspected, and which are managed by engineers who do not possess licenses, simply because there is no law requiring either inspection or license. In many streets of Toronto and other places in Canada are steam boilers located beneath sidewalks, over which men and women are passing constantly, all unconscious of the pent-up power that lies beneath their feet. Who knows whether these boilers were ever inspected, or when; and if they are in charge of competent licensed engineers? Reference is made to this phase of the question in a letter published in another page. As our correspondent expresses it, the question of licensing stationary engineers, and requiring that all stationary boilers be frequently inspected, is one well worthy the attention of the Government.

The incidents which are herein alluded to should arrest the attention of all users of stationary boilers. Here we see that great loss of life and property resulted from neglecting an evident duty. The owners of the boilers never expected that they would explode; probably they never gave the matter a thought; and it is to guard the innocent and the unsuspecting from the consequences of such neglect that suitable laws should be enacted and enforced. There are many steam users, however, who would not be thus disregarding of their own interests and of the lives of human beings were their unthoughtful neglect brought to their attention, and it is our desire to thus remind them.

It used to be that when a boiler exploded and killed people the verdict of the coroner's jury usually was, "Died by the visitation of God," or "Unavoidable accident," or something of that sort. We know better than that now. We know that God does not cause boilers to explode; we know that the explosion of boilers are not unavoidable accidents; and we know that if boilers are kept in good condition, and are in the care of reliable engineers, explosions are not apt to occur. Wise laws provide that on steam vessels no engineer is allowed to have charge of boilers who has not been granted a certificate from proper authority allowing him permission to act as such. These laws are strictly enforced, particularly where passengers are carried. But it is not so on land, where boilers are in use in hundreds of places where people are constantly passing, unconscious of the fact that no law exists, or is in force, requiring the frequent inspection of boilers, and that they shall be in the control of licensed engineers. The cupidity of many owners of steam plants restrains them from observing the proper precautions regarding them; and when so-called accidents occur, if none but they were injured or

killed, perhaps the public would not shed many bitter tears. But usually when boilers explode the resultant death and destruction reaches far beyond the man whose culpable negligence caused it. The law should make frequent inspections imperative, and make it a criminal offence for any man to take charge of a boiler who does not hold a license or certificate from proper authority to do so.

#### ADVERTISING CORMORANTS.

For some time past the Toronto World has been waging war upon the Toronto Mail because, as it alleges, the Mail is in the habit of cutting rates when soliciting advertisements. It classifies the Mail crowd of advertising solicitors as master fakirs, fakirs and underfakirs, and declares that those who own or run the Mail try to bulldoze those interested in certain sales into advertising them in that paper. It also says that the Mail proposes to bullyrag the business men who decide for themselves how they shall advertise. The reason assigned by the World for taking notice of such things is because the Mail had attacked it by asking the invariable and impertinent question of business men, "Why do you give advertisements to the World?"

We quite agree with what the World says in the following:—

Business and professional men surely have a right to place advertising in whatever newspaper they think best. They are not bound to put it in every paper, as The Mail imagines. Newspapers have no "rights" to this or that patronage. And yet, "Why don't you give it to us," is the half-cry, half-threat of The Mail, and the reason for their attacks on the auctioneers. The truth is, as everyone knows, there are too many big morning dailies in Toronto. Three of them have been fighting for life for five years back. The Globe is climbing up out of it, but The Mail and Empire are down in the midst of it, scratching and clawing. And who should suffer but The Mail? It brought the Empire into existence. Business and professional men say: "We are not to be compelled to support unnecessary newspapers, papers that have either lost caste or have arisen out of political squabbles." Business men select a paper known for its business character, that has the patronage of business men, and whose main mission is to promote the trade, commerce and business interests of Toronto.

In the World's attack upon the Mail it calls the attention of business men to the fact that there is no limit to the advertising demands of the Mail people; that they have all under one management a morning paper, an evening paper, a weekly paper, a Saturday paper, an illustrated supplement, an art supplement, a farm and fireside branch, etc; and they have turned loose on the town never less than thirty advertising solicitors. They have been in all sorts of fakes and gift enterprises; they believe that the business men of Toronto are bound to advertise in their publications; that the Mail crowd expect too much, and are cormorantish in their appetite. "What more can the Mail expect from the town?" it asks. "Do they think they are free to flood it with sheets to catch advertising and to turn thirty fakirs on the business man to dog his life out?"

The fight is interesting in that one of the Toronto daily papers shows up some of the methods of another Toronto daily paper in endeavoring to obtain advertising business by methods that are not considered fair and legitimate; and our purpose in alluding to this matter is to show that not only the Mail but all the other Toronto dailies are in the same boat, special re-