

cocon leaves, from which the new substance is procured. Prices have advanced in consequence and are now quoted on the market at \$1.00 to \$1.50, against 40c to 75c a short time ago. It requires about 500 pounds of leaves to produce one ounce of the new preparation. The present value of the latter is between \$4 and \$6 per gramme. That the success of the cocon article is assured is manifest in the fact that prices of chloroform are on the decline, and now some 15c per pound lower than a few weeks ago.

THE UNITED STATES LIFE.—James W. Molson, of this city, late of the Victoria Straw Works, has been appointed agent for Canada of the United States Life Insurance Co., in the place of Mr. N. J. Tessier, resigned. There have been somewhat rapid changes in the Canadian management of the company of late—since its return to the field. The company ever appears to have been fortunate in its management or successful in its business in this country. It is reported that its late agent in Toronto spent several thousand dollars the first year of its re-entry and obtained two applications. Re-organization expenses are a matter of course, but two applications are "too-oo." We hope for better things from Mr. Molson, who has the advantage of a new career before him and a field not over-cultivated at any time by the company he represents.

STATEMENT of the lumber cut between Grenville and Ottawa for the season:—Hamilton Bros., Hawkesbury, 35,000,000 feet; W. C. Edwards & Co., Rockland, 40,000,000 feet; J. McLaren & Co., Buckingham, 17,000,000 feet; Ross Bros., Buckingham, 15,000,000 feet; Hillman's Mill, Rockcliffe, 3,500,000 feet; Gilmour & Co., Gatineau, 40,000,000 feet; J. McLaren & Co., Ottawa, 25,000,000 feet; W. McClymont & Co., New Edinburgh, 22,000,000 feet; Bronson & Weston, Ottawa, 60,000,000 feet; Perly & Patten, Ottawa, 50,000,000 feet; Sherman, Lord & Hurdman, Hull, 40,000,000 feet; J. R. Booth, Ottawa, 60,000,000 feet; estate of Levi Young, 18,000,000 feet; E. B. Eddy, Hull and Nepean, 70,000,000 feet. Total, 495,500,000 feet.

THE ICE PALACE.—A suggestion.—A gentleman in this city who has an eye to symmetry and beauty suggests that the blocks of ice which go to the building of the new Ice Palace should be bevelled at the outer edges. This, he claims, might be easily done while the blocks are being laid, by means of a simple tool which any blacksmith may fashion. The effect would be to remove the jagged edges which usually prevail with such brittle material, and to furnish a multiplicity of facets which could not fail to add to the brilliancy and magnificence of the structure.

One probable effect of the wide-spread adoption of the Scott Act will doubtless be to lessen the consumption of beer and increase that of whiskey. The greater bulk of the former renders it difficult to handle, while a gallon jar of whiskey suffices for some time and is less liable to exposure. A cask or keg of beer or ale is not easily concealed in the wagon or buggy or about the premises; the jug of whiskey is a more accommodating companion, and will probably take the place of the occasional glass of beer over the tavern counter.

The Boston wool market was quite active last week, the aggregate sales amounting to 3,371,972 lbs., against 2,777,401 lbs. for the week previous and 2,061,000 lbs. for the corresponding week last year. Another failure is reported in the Boston wool trade, the firm in

question having become embarrassed through the purchase of half-a-million pounds of Michigan X wool at 28c per lb., some time since. The total sales of wool in the above since January 1, 1881, have been 112,017,875 lbs., against 119,432,855 lbs. for the corresponding period of 1883, a decrease of 7,414,980 lbs.

The Bell Telephone Co. has lately opened and connected with its Trunk Line System the following new offices, viz.: Acton, Brampton, Brooklin, Georgetown, Goodwood, Markham, Meadowvale, Port Perry, Petrolia, Sarnia, Streetsville, Stouffville, Uxbridge and Wyoming, and Belleville, Strathroy and Watford will be connected next week. Conversations have already been carried on quite successfully between Hamilton and Sarnia over the new lines.—*Ex.*

In referring to the large profits supposed by many to be realized by the fire insurance companies, *The Ins. Times* quotes that the net dividend profits on the insurance business for the last ten years have averaged less than one per cent of the capital invested, and not one-half of one per cent of the aggregate assets, and that in the year 1883 these profits were a minus quantity, the dividends being paid from the interest receipts entirely, the companies not making money in that year to show any profit on the insurance business.

QUININE continues to depreciate in value says the *New York Commercial Bulletin*, owing to the excessive production abroad and prospective liberal supplies of cinchona bark. American manufacturers have reduced their prices to 90c for ounce phials and 83c to 85c for large packages. The foreign article is selling at 80c in bulk—a price low enough to make it more advantageous for American manufacturers to bottle that article than manufacture themselves.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.—A meeting of the Hamilton members was held on Saturday evening at the Royal Hotel, Mr. Adam Brown, Vice-President, in the chair. Several matters of importance were discussed. The following gentlemen were named as officers for Hamilton for the ensuing year; Mr. B. A. Dalley, First Vice-President; Mr. W. G. Reid, Second Vice-President; Directors, Messrs. Adam Brown, J. H. Stone, Geo. E. Hamilton, John A. Orr, W. E. Glennie, Alexander Munroe. On motion Mr. Brown left the chair, and Mr. E. A. Dalley was called thereto, when a vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to Mr. Adam Brown "for the very able and efficient manner in which he has filled the office of First Vice-President for Hamilton during the past three years." It was also decided to present that gentleman with an illuminated address "as a memento of his untiring efforts in furthering the interests of the association," and a committee was appointed to draft the same. Votes of thanks were passed to the retiring directors, Messrs. J. D. Stewart and M. Macfarlane. The annual dinner tickets were distributed. It is Toronto's turn this year; it is to be held in the Rossin House.—*Spectator*.

As the Equitable Life is putting a girder round the globe, it behooves its managers to have fitting headquarters at the "Hub of the Universe." The company's Boston building is a handsome one, but to meet the requirements of its constantly-increasing business it has been determined to enlarge the structure, by taking in the contiguous corner of Milk and Federal streets. The work of the extension will be commenced early in January next.—*Ins. Times*.

The communication of "Private Banker" is unavoidably held over.

Correspondence.

THE OTTAWA FIRE BRIGADE.

OTTAWA, Nov. 24, 1884.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE.

SIR,—My attention was called to an article in your paper of the 21st instant signed "Experience." Reflecting on the Ottawa Fire Brigade in general and myself in particular and in support of his statement of our inefficiency quotes three instances wherein he says we proved a failure. Now sir, the 1st Fire he mentions is the market. Now it was proved on oath that that building was one mass of Fire and past putting out by the time the Brigade arrived, and there was no time lost in getting there. The 2nd Fire the Boiler Shop was well stowed, there was nothing destroyed but the roof, the sides and ends were left standing and where used again, a new stronger and better roof being put on. I might say this Building was a frame Building sheathed inside and out with Boards and filled between with saw dust, and had been built for some years and was as dry as tinder besides it was surrounded with other Buildings and wood sheds and none of them where damaged. The 3rd Fire to which he alludes is a fire in a Stable in rear of the Grand Union Hotel, he does not say that that fire was not well put out but he says the men showed their want of discipline, by using Vile language now all I have to say to that is that if such language was used it was not by members of the Brigade but by out siders who were helping and I don't hold myself responsible for the doings of outsiders, and I don't know of any Member of the force who uses Vile language and I am willing to leave the reputation of the Brigade with those who know them best the *Crizzens* whom they have served for Ten Years and in their opinion Experience is a *Liab*.

I remain yours truly,
WILLIAM YOUNG, Chief O. F. B.

THE OTTAWA FIRE SERVICE.

We received, too late for publication in our last issue, a communication from Chief Young of Ottawa in reply to "Experience." We do not hold ourselves responsible for the contents of communications, nor do we intend that our columns shall be permanently occupied by acrimonious correspondents. In order to close this series before it becomes so, we have asked "Experience" for explanations, and insert his reply along with the letter of the Chief, which we give *verbatim et literatim*:—Ed. J. of C.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE:

SIR:—As to the fire at the Market House in Ottawa, the circumstances were such as to render necessary a general whitewashing investigation, which the insurance companies were not invited to attend. As to the Boiler Shop, the fire occurred at noon-day, and should never have been allowed to do half the damage it did. As to the livery stable fire, I do say "it was not well put out"; there was a continuous wrangle amongst the men as to the application of the water, which was, in consequence, used spasmodically and not systematically. As to the language used by the men on that occasion, I refer you to the last word of the Chief's letter for a specimen of it. You can readily understand that the men are not more choice in their epithets than is the Chief.