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ed upon application.****E. C. Stanwood & Co'y**121 Devonshire Street,
BOSTON, Mass., U.S.A.**LIABILITY FOR FIRE.**

A case has just been decided in which a rail-
way is mulcted for the value of a building set
on fire not directly by sparks from one of its
locomotives, but catching from the building
which the sparks did set on fire. The case was
that of the Central Vermont Railroad and the
Stanstead and Sherbrooke Mutual Insurance
Company. The Quebec Court of Appeal decrees
that the railway company must make good the
loss, some \$4,000, caused by fire in Waterloo,
on the 4th of May, 1892. The interesting point
about the case is that the fire which had caused
the destruction of the buildings upon which the
insurance company had paid the insurance, had
originated from sparks from one of the railway
company's engines igniting a barn not insured,
the flames spreading thence to the insured build-
ings. The Hon. Mr. Justice Hall cited the
case of the church wardens of Boucherville
against Molson. In that case sparks from a
steamer belonging to the latter had ignited the
wharf at Boucherville, and flames had extended
to the church and burned it down. The pro-
prietor of the steamer had been sued and his
responsibility had been affirmed by all the
courts, including the Privy Council.

BRIBING BUYERS.

The pressure of competition is made respon-
sible for many improper things in business
practice nowadays. "Stuffing" of orders;
returning of goods without adequate reason;
giving secret discounts while pretending to live
up to a certain agreement—all these are sought
to be excused, by saying, "So-and-so does it,
and we cannot compete if we don't." We have
heard that it is permissible to do a little evil
that good may come, but even such question-
able justification cannot be pleaded in such
case, for no good comes of these things.

It is nothing new to learn that firms
nowadays, or rather the employees of firms,
resort to various means, more or less "gentle-
teel," of bribing buyers. It is done in
the States; it is done in Canada; it is
even done in England, and people say "we
must do it." But the Chief Justice of Eng-
land and a jury of Englishman reject this plea
and say that a firm does rightly in discharging
an employee who resorts to bribery to get cus-
tom. The case was one in which a commercial
traveller sued his employers for wrongful dis-
missal. The defendants' firm claimed justifica-
tion in discharging the plaintiff on the ground
that he had injured their credit and reputation
by offering bribes to a certain buyer in order to
secure his trade. This view was sustained by
the jury and by the court, who declared that
the firm had done the right thing.

To offer a bribe is no less wrong than to
accept one. If all business houses were as care-
ful of their reputation as the firm which dis-
charged its salesman because he attempted to
bribe a buyer, the evil would soon die a natural
death. Commenting on the case the *Drapery
World* says, "the remedy lies in action similar
to that of the defendant in this case, and until
that is fully recognized, and recognized not only
with a nod of assent but with corresponding
energy, we may expect the substratum of dis-
honesty which is represented in the giving and
taking of illicit commissions to remain."

J. J. KINGSMILL, president of the Mining
Institute of Ontario; Ewen Mackenzie, Henry
O'Brien, James Gunn, George P. Magann,
Alexander Fraser, George Gurd and Jacob Dol-
mage, all of Toronto, are seeking incorporation
as the Anglo-Canadian Mining Exchange, Ltd.,
with headquarters at Toronto, and a capital of
\$50,000.

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