

any trace wheroby they may be detected, or the goods recovered. It seems that each of the proprietors carried keys of the safe, one to fit each lock, and that their keys were never out of their possession. Moreover, these keys were of such peculiar construction as to make their owners believe that their safes were absolutely burglar-proof.

This probably was the case, and had the burglars been compelled to force the safe open, it is more than probable that they would either never have made the attempt, or else have been detected before they could have completed the job.

The detectives, as usual, have nothing to advance but theories, but their theory seems, at all events, to be a sound one this time, although it will afford but little satisfaction to Messrs. Fox & Co. to know that the robbers probably visited their residence and secured and took wax impressions of their keys while they were asleep. We say that this is the most probable explanation of the remarkable case with which they executed this robbery, for it was almost precisely in a similar manner that they obtained the keys of Messrs. We'sh & Trowern's safe for the September robbery.

It is quite evident, from this and various other robberies of a similar kind, that key-locking safes, however perfect their locks, are entirely worthless in the face of such an operation as detailed above, and the only safe way of keeping valuables is to secure the safes in which they are stored by combination locks.

Even these, as we have before pointed out, are not absolutely burglar-proof, but they at least do away with more than half the risk. The balance may be minimised by keeping the store well lighted up at night and an honest and vigilant watchman to look after it.

Good safes are now so cheap that any merchant who trusts to the old-fashioned ones on account of the expense is penny wise and pound foolish. The slight additional expense involved in procuring the modern improvements is more than compensated for by the increased protection secured and the peace of mind resulting from the knowledge that everything has been done that can be done to secure safety.

To any of our readers who have not yet discarded their key-locking safes we would say, don't trust to them any longer than it will take you to get a new and modern safe in their place.

The losses we have chronicled should be sufficient warning, and a word to the wise is sufficient.

ARE YOU INSURED ?

Probably no subject, in these days of destructive conflagrations, is more important than that of adequate fire insurance, and we are sorry to say that in many cases it receives but a very small portion of the consideration due to its importance. While to the thoroughly trained business man, adequate fire insurance is a necessary adjunct of his business, to the untrained and unthinking, it is an unprofitable expenditure of money that is made more often at the solicitation of the insurance agent, than for any conviction of its practical necessity.

No greater error than this could be practiced by any business man, for facts which can scarcely be contradicted, furnish abundant evidence that fires will occur in spite of the greatest possible precautions to prevent them. This being the case, it becomes the imperative duty of every business man to guard against possible loss from this source by adequate insurance in some responsible company, and the refusal or neglect to provide against such a contingency is not unfrequently attended with serious loss to the creditors, and utter ruin to the merchant whose conduct has made such a thing possible.

Probably every one of us can call to mind instances of merchants who have been reduced from independence to poverty by their failure to comply with this very important business requirement; and the wonder is that with so many warnings before their eyes, there are any merchants to be found blind enough to stand in their own light and thus deliberately run the risk of commercial shipwreck.

We submit that this question of adequate fire insurance is one of the most important that can engage the attention of any business man, either wholesale or retail.

It is not enough to be insured, for a merchant may be that, and still in a position to be ruined by a general burn out. What is wanted, is for each merchant to have an insurance commensurate with the amount of stock he carries, so that in case of a sweeping fire, he will not be crippled, ruined entirely. So necessary has adequate fire insurance become that we find it has become a general custom among many of our largest and wealthiest wholesale merchants to increase their insurance day by day for short date policy during their season of large imports, deeming it too great a risk to allow their ordinary amount of insurance to

stand against their increased stock, even though the danger be only for a few days or weeks at the most. If the wealthiest cannot afford to become their own underwriters, by running unnecessary risks, it stands to reason that to the average business man adequate insurance is a matter of vital importance, and should be delayed no longer than it takes to find out the amount of stock and get the policy properly executed.

A very important factor in the question of fire insurance, is the standing and reliability of the company insured in. Many people run away with the mistaken notion that any Insurance Company is good enough, and if they are insured at all they are safe enough. There never was a more absurd idea, and as a rule this class of insurers get into small Mutual Companies, with little capital, less responsibility and no disposition to pay, and the result is that when loss by fire does occur they are unable to get a single dollar from the company, who will raise any and every possible legal quibble in order to get rid of paying the claim.

Competition in the insurance business is so keen that there is but little difference between the rates of reliable and irresponsible companies, and what little there is, is more than counterbalanced by the additional risk the insurer runs.

As a rule cheap insurance, means unsafe and risky insurance, and is dear at any price.

We cannot better conclude than by giving our readers the advice we gave them nearly three years ago, advice which we sincerely trust will be followed by any who have neglected this very important question.

Always keep your stock and property insured.

See that it is insured in some first class company that has a reputation for honorable dealing.

Read your policy carefully and see that you comply faithfully with its requirements.

If you insure in more than one company see that your policies are made concurrent, and not each company allowed to insure a particular kind or quantity of goods.

There being so very little difference between the rates of strong and weak insurance companies, it will pay you to have the best if it does cost you a trifle more; it is a great advantage to be in a company that is financially strong.