

MONTREAL papers tell of how the fire department of that city determined to make its wooden extension ladders thoroughly fire-proof. A lot of so-called fire-proof paint was imported from the United States and laid on to the ladders without stint. About the time the work was finished a newspaper man happened along, and, in experimenting with the paint, discovered that it was quite as inflammable as coal oil, and wood coated with it took fire and burned readily when a lighted match was applied to it. There are manufacturers in Montreal who make paint that is really "fire-proof," but, of course, the Montreal fire department could not believe that any good thing could come out of Nazareth. Canada produces in abundance all the ingredients necessary in the manufacture of the very best qualities of fire-proof paint.

ALLUSION is made elsewhere in these pages to the application made by a prominent manufacturing concern in this city, who desired the authorities to grant them exemption from taxation for ten years on a new malleable iron works which they proposed erecting here. The publicity given the matter elicited a letter from another manufacturer, who happens to be the owner of a malleable iron works, in which he says:—"I have been in business ten years and have never had one dollar of exemption from taxes or received any favor from the corporation since I started business. I have built up my business against the keenest of competition, and used only native help and capital." It would be manifestly unjust to this manufacturer who has built up a good business with his own capital, by his own energy, and without any "bonus" whatever, to handicap him in the market by exempting a competitor from taxation.

CANADIAN cordage manufacturers, and Canadian farmers also, will be interested in the following which we credit to *Farm Machinery*, St. Louis:—

The Binder Twine Association is a strong one, and quite likely to hold prices right through the season. It began by a combination of four Eastern manufacturers, who "cornered" all the manilla and sisal in the country, and that to arrive as fast as imported, and set a price on it which no manufacturer could pay and undersell them. As fast as small manufacturers were "convinced," they became members of the Trust, and were taken in out of the cold. Of course, so long as each member is compelled, for want of other supply, to buy of the Trust, and must account for it product, on which it pays a dividend when its percentage is exceeded, and gets one when less than its percentage is made, there is no chance nor reason for cutting prices. Nearly all manufacturers have taken a hand, and the very nature of the compact indicates that it will hold at least for this season.

THE Fire Insurance Exchange of Toronto, as will be seen by the report of the officers to the annual meeting held in this city a few days ago, is in a most flourishing and satisfactory condition. While the total revenue of the company during the year covered by the report was \$31,259; and while the net amount of risks in force amounted to \$1,140,000, the losses amounted to only \$649, a balance of over \$21,000 being carried over to profit and loss account. The report lays stress upon the value of careful selection and systematic inspection of risks, these being features of this company's working. Also upon the compulsory provision, by insurers, of

adequate appliances on their premises for extinguishing fires. These are all good features, and where rigidly insisted upon, have an unquestionable effect in lessening the fire waste. The gentlemen directing the company, and the executive officers, are of the most reliable and conservative business men of the country, and possess the entire confidence of the community.

THE public generally in the United States are aroused and indignant at the efforts of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers to obstruct traffic on certain Western railroads. The strike on the South-western system of the Gould roads two years ago, when that scamp Martin Irons proved himself to be a bigger man than Mr. Powderly, is fresh in memory, and the people are heartily tired of such doings. Regarding the existing trouble the *New York Indicator* says:—

"The public have submitted tamely to the most outrageous attacks made upon their rights, until it is not surprising that labor demagogues should assert their right to decide whether 60,000,000 people shall be allowed to receive their food supply, their coal, or their clothing. We have seen the prices of articles of food advanced in the past week because of the threat of one man that he would stop the operation of every railroad in this country. And we have seen a Congress stoop to appoint a committee to mediate between such a man and the railroad he is trying to ruin."

THE recent meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, held in this city, the proceedings of which were published *in extenso* in this journal at the time, excited a great deal of interest in the United States, emphasizing as it did, the growing importance of Canada as a manufacturing and self-sustaining country, and the disfavor in which Commercial Union is viewed by Canadian manufacturers. The *Cleveland, Ohio, Iron Trade Review*, speaking of the meeting, says:—"No more vigorous or intelligent body exists in Canada than the Canadian Manufacturers Association." It reproduced copious extracts from the address of Mr. Thomas Cowan, the retiring president, and says that "equally interesting figures were given by the efficient secretary, Mr. Frederic Nicholls." We accept the assurance of our contemporary that "the manufacturers of the United States are quite as averse to political or Commercial Union" as Canadian manufacturers are, "whatever the vapors of misled theorists."

THE Ottawa correspondent of the *Globe*, speaking of the letter of Mr. Frederic Nicholls, secretary of the Canadian Manufacturer's Association, to Mr. Clark Wallace, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Combinations, in which it was suggested that the scope of the inquiries being made by the committee should be enlarged so as to embrace labor organizations, says, "Mr. Nichols forgets that men are not forced into labor organizations." The young man should go to school. He should know by this time that no laboring man can obtain employment unless he is a member of a labor organization; and that frequently the whole body of union men are called out on strike for no other reason than because some non-union man was at work. If the Ottawa newspaper reporters should happen to form themselves into an organization similar to those which Mr. Nicholls wants to have investigated, the sapient representative of the *Globe* would quickly discover the fact that he would either have to join or lose his situation.