

Cape wools, for example, and Natal, have advanced from thirty to forty per cent. since April of last year, and Buenos Ayres from forty to forty-five per cent. And this after allowing for the drop in price at the last London wool sales. The fact gives a strength to the manufacturers' prices to which they were long strangers. Cables received yesterday from London, Scotland and the continent, report the wool market active and prices firmer, especially for Buenos Ayres, while English pulled is scarce and firm.

A correspondent in to-day's issue fall foul of Mr. Beaumont, of Leeds, and Mr. Etchells, of Huddersfield, for their alleged slander of Canadian textile products in the papers or lectures which we have already noticed. These gentlemen, our correspondent must remember, are authorities in their way; men, doubtless, of great experience and therefore, perhaps, entitled to pronounce in the self-sufficient way they do upon matters connected with trade from a Leeds or Huddersfield standpoint. That they prefer free trade to protection is natural; so do we, if it could be got. That they look with surprise, and possibly contempt, upon the policy of Canada and of the United States in protecting their manufactures by high import duties is very likely. It is contrary to Britain's policy and is by many good thinkers considered an economic fallacy. But they need not so readily settle down into the belief that "the old country" will continue to make all the goods for all the world, any more than that her colonies are not able to make very creditable goods.

There may have been, as it was proper enough there should be, among the variety of Canadian textiles seen by the English gentlemen in London, specimens of coarse and ordinary goods, substantial and suited to certain classes of our trade. Quite possibly these and some other goods made by smaller or newer mills did not come up to their ideas of proper finish. But to ascertain what can really be done in Canada, let the products of her best mills be examined. It will then, we think, be discovered that they are creditable wares. When, for example, the Canadian tweed mills of Paton, at Sherbrooke, and Rosamond, at Almonte, send their products to the Paris Exposition Universelle, and to the American Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, and are awarded gold medals for quality, style and finish, English people should hardly refuse them merit.

#### FIRE CAUSED BY EXPLOSION.

In places where coal gas cannot be obtained for illuminating purposes, all kinds of inventions are resorted to in order to get a substitute for the most dangerous of all kinds of lighting, that of coal oil lamps. Gas made from gasoline is now becoming common, especially in manufacturing risks. Great care requires to be taken when this very volatile product of petroleum is used. The tank containing the gasoline should be outside, and at a safe distance from the building, and should be filled during daylight only. The pipes from this tank, which convey the gas into the building,

must have a downward incline towards the tank so that when the lights are extinguished and the gas becomes condensed, it will return to the tank. The pipes must in all cases be made secure, because great danger follows the escape of the gas into the building, either by a leak in the pipe or from the bursting of one.

In a large woollen mill at Clinton, Mich., in which gasoline gas was used for lighting purposes, one of the pipes burst, and the escaping gas came into contact with the flame of a lantern, causing an explosion which burned the mill and its contents, resulting in a loss of \$160,000. At Columbus, Ohio, an explosion took place in the dust-arrester of a large wagon factory, injuring two of the employees severely and damaging the factory and adjoining buildings badly. At East Cambridge, Mass., an explosion took place in the fuel room of the Power Supply Company, killing one man, and in the fire which followed fatally injuring another. The explosion was supposed to be caused by a spark falling into the shavings and dust in the fuel room, which was a small and badly ventilated apartment. Another result of an explosion this time from a battery of three boilers in a saw-mill near Evansville, Indiana, is almost incredible. The force of this explosion was so great that large sections of the boilers were carried four hundred yards from the mill, while one section weighing three hundred pounds was blown to a distance of three quarters of a mile away, across the Ohio River, passing in its flight directly over a steamboat. In this case two men were killed and seven men dangerously wounded. The above dreadful casualties resulted no doubt in more than one instance from sheer and culpable neglect.

We have had something of a similar nature nearer home. At the planing mill of the Messrs. Cane & Son, Newmarket, a fire recently occurred which might have resulted in the total destruction of the fine new brick buildings erected by this firm after the total destruction of their frame factory some time ago. One of the hands found a pail with some kind of a liquid in it, and wanting to know what it was he carried the pail towards the light. The vessel happened to contain a small quantity of benzine. Before the man came near the light an explosion took place, injuring the poor fellow badly and setting fire to the factory. Fortunately there was a force-pump connected with the factory, and a sufficient quantity of hose. An abundant stream of water was quickly obtained and applied, and the fire was soon extinguished but not without considerable loss to both building and contents.

Two lessons may be learned from the Newmarket fire:—First—That benzine in an open vessel in a building is exceedingly dangerous, and great care should always be taken that if benzine, gasoline or any other similar fluid is kept in a building, it must not be kept in an uncovered vessel. The best kind of vessel for such a purpose is a tin can narrow at the top, so that it can be securely closed by means of a cork or a screw cover. The second lesson to be drawn from this fire is the utility of a force pump with a sufficient quantity of hose to

reach all parts of the factory. The employees should also be drilled in the ready application of this fire-extinguishing appliance. Had the Messrs. Cane not taken the precaution of providing their factory in this way their fine new buildings would, in all probability, have shared the fiery fate of the old ones. The great secret of successfully putting out a fire is to have fire-extinguishers early on the spot. A pail of water or a stream from an inch hose, is more effectual at an early stage of a fire, than tons of water would be when the fire fairly gets under way. The wisdom of the underwriters in reducing rates of insurance in proportion to the adequacy of means provided for the prevention and extinguishing of a fire is manifest, in view of such circumstances as are above described.

We are glad to learn that many of our manufacturers are now improving their risks by providing stand pipes, force-pumps and hose sufficient to reach all parts of their premises. Sprinklers are coming more into general use. The Messrs. Gurney, of Toronto, and the *Mail* building in the same city, are fully supplied with automatic sprinklers of the most approved kind. Several cotton and woollen mills in Canada are being improved in this way, which reduces the rates of insurance to such an extent as amply to justify the cost of providing such appliances. The more this system of improving fire risks prevails, the fewer will be the fires; and at the reduced rates the companies will have fewer losses and consequently larger dividends for their shareholders than have been obtained in the past.

#### A MAMMOTH FARM PROJECT.

Sir John Lister Kaye has on hand a mammoth farm project which he proposes to launch, in the North-West. His plan is to purchase blocks of land of 20,000 acres each, from the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and the Canadian government in the Red Deer River District, north of Calgary. To stock the lands with 70,000 head of cattle, imported pure Polled-Angus; to import Clydesdale brood mares and thoroughbred stallions; to buy 21,000 head of sheep, "and improve them with pure Cheviot and Leicester rams and ewes;" to purchase the same number of pigs, and put them through a like improving process.

The lands which have been examined for the purpose of being formed into this gigantic farm or series of farms, are situated at Rush Lake, Swift Current, Gull Lake, Crane Lake, Kingarth, Dunmore, Stair, Bantry, Nomaka, and Langdon. In water and herbage they are reported to be all that could be desired. To carry this gigantic scheme into effect, a capital of \$5,000,000 will be required, the greater part of which, Sir John Kaye is reported to have secured.

The projector must of course have convinced himself, and many others, that farming, in the North-West, on the scale proposed can be made to pay. He measures the product by that obtained at the model farms of the Pacific Railway Company, and apparently counts on getting 21½ bushels