

current is continuously supplied to the heaters. It is fair to assume that the continuous radiation of heat so generated, would, in time, carbonize to a dangerous extent the wood near the heaters. I have it as the opinion of the superintendent of one of the roads in New England that passengers often endanger the insulation of the supply wire by hitting the heater with their feet, and, in consequence, the danger of short circuiting is great. Some railway companies now protect their heaters by a wood slat frame placed over same.

"I believe that companies and rating committees should give special consideration to the great hazard pertaining particularly to car barns and should compel arrangements to have the trolley removed from the wire as soon as cars are placed in the barns. If this cannot be done, or some electrical expert cannot invent a resistance device to care, after the motors are cut out, for current of electricity in excess of that required to keep the car at normal heat while standing in the barn, companies should insist on higher rates. Another necessity for increased premium from this class of business is the great cost of many cars now in use. In the Providence loss a number of 40-foot cars were involved, one of them being of a pattern which cost \$7,500 completed. Many large cars have four motors each, where formerly but two were employed."

Providing electric car sheds with adequate protection is a matter of much greater importance than is yet generally realized.

**A Scrimmage at Westminster.** Whom the gods would destroy, they first deprive of reason, is an old saying which implies, that men are ruined chiefly by their own irrational conduct. The noblest cause would be blighted by its advocates displaying such irrational conduct as led last week to a fight on the floor of the Imperial House of Commons between several Irish members and the police. The peace officers were called in by the Speaker to enforce the authority of the House, which was being most offensively and violently defied, by a few misguided men who seem to have been operated upon by the gods, as indicated above, for their "reason" had clearly departed. The debate was closed by motion in due order, which the recalcitrant members resented, as they demanded the right to continue speaking after the House had formally closed the debate. They refused to pass out into the lobby to be counted, as the rules require, or to leave the House. They simply defied the Speaker and Parliament; they were in for a row and raised one of unprecedented violence. They would not leave their seats, but kicked at and fought the police who had orders to remove them. Several police were seriously injured in the scrimmage. The Speaker should have taken Cromwell's line, that champion of liberty, emptied the House of Commons at the point of the

sword by soldiers, and kept it shut by the same force. The closing of the debate when Irish members wished to speak may have been unfair, those cannot judge who were not there, but, however unfair it may have been, it was a most irrational outrage on the dignity and the rights of Parliament to raise a riot in the House like a squabble in a pot-house. The cause of Ireland, whatever that may mean as represented in the House of Commons, was badly injured by the recent violence of its champions, who seem determined to expose their unfitness for self-government.

**Russia gives U. S. a Checkmate.** One of the neatest moves in the game of Tariffs, which is somewhat like that of Chess, was made recently by Russia in a contest with the United States. The American players thought to prevent any sugar from Russia entering the States by placing a countervailing duty on the bounty sugar of that Empire. The imports of this Russian product had never been large, nor were ever likely to be, the value being about \$25,000 per year. But, even this insignificant trifle was annoying to Uncle Sam, who is insanely jealous of any foreign product entering his market in competition with a similar class of native article. As soon as this action of the United States was known in Russia, the Government there promptly gave America a very bad checkmate by imposing prohibitory duties on American iron and steel goods; the imports of which were usually about \$10,000,000 yearly. So, to prevent foreign goods to extent of \$25,000 entering their country, the Americans shut themselves out of a foreign market which, every year, took \$10,000,000 of American manufactures! Chess-players who are very verdant in playing with a veteran, sometimes snap at a pawn with avidity, when it only leads the way to their astute opponent almost instantly giving them a checkmate, of the possibility of which the victim never dreamt. Uncle Sam is just now wondering what made him act so foolishly as to have all Europe laughing at Russia's triumph over him. Critics of England's fiscal policy should remember that she has been playing the game of Tariffs for centuries with unprecedented success. Younger players are showing great skill in the game, but any expert onlooker can see that whatever tariff gains are won by the antagonists of Great Britain have been won not by superior play, but by the complacency of the British, who are not insisting upon the rigour of the game. Let John Bull be once aroused to taking up as strong a defensive attitude as is quite open to him, that is, by imposing duties on the imports of goods from countries having a Tariff adverse to the interests, then the Germans and Americans, who now take advantage of England's complacency, will learn the same lesson that Russia has just taught the United States.