

FIRE INSURANCE ITEMS.

The Fire Underwriters' Association of the North-West is to hold its thirty-sixth annual meeting in the Music Hall, Chicago, on October 11 and 12. The programme contains the following items besides the president's address. A paper on "National Supervision of Insurance," by Hon. James M. Beck, of New York; one on "Improved Construction of Buildings," by A. A. Maloney, of Kansas City; one on "Insurance Legislation and Supervision," by Zeno. M. Host, Commissioner of Insurance for Wisconsin; "Sentiment in Underwriting," by C. F. Shallcross, of New York; "The Fire Marshal, His Duties and Opportunities," by Henry D. Davis, State Fire Marshal of Ohio, which is sure to be interesting; one on "Chemistry of Fires and Chemicals in Fires," a most important subject; and one on "Over-looked Hazards," by George A. Mowry, of Minneapolis.

The Parisian authorities have hit upon several useful features, from a sanitary point of view, for their building regulations. According to the latest by-laws on the subject, fifteen cubic yards of breathing space must be allowed to each person living in a house or tenement, and the distance between the ceiling and the floor of any living room must not be less than eight feet. It is forbidden to use wall-paper; the walls must be of plaster, and must be white-washed with lime at least once a year. All paint work must also be renewed once a year, and the paint must be of a light color. Every room must have good ventilation and direct light from the outside, and no living rooms are to be allowed on the basement or in cellars. There must be at least one water closet for each twenty persons, and the floors of every room are to be washed very frequently.

—The feeling in English wool centres is displayed effectively in the following letter from Bradford, York: "It is, of course, impossible to ascertain the actual size of the stocks of wool in the manufacturing districts of the world at the present time, but there can be little doubt that they are unusually small, and it is certain that in all the great wool producing centres growers, tempted by the high prices now ruling, have rushed their wool into the market much more com-

pletely than has in late years been the custom. There is, therefore, every indication of increased consumption ahead, and little prospect of a sufficient increase in the supply to meet the demand.

GREAT NORTH WESTERN TELEGRAPH CO.

The annual meeting of shareholders of the Great North Western Telegraph Company was held at their head office Toronto on 27th inst.

The annual report presented an encouraging state of affairs, and a still further increase in business is looked for 1906, as the company have expended large sums of money in increasing their facilities, especially through the erection of new copper and large gauge iron wires. The following directors were elected for the ensuing year: H. P. Dwight, Toronto, president; Adam Brown, Hamilton, vice-president; I. McMichael, Toronto, vice-president and general manager; other directors, Hugh N. Baird, Toronto; Col. R. C. Clowry, New York; James Hedley, Hon. J. K. Kerr, W. C. Matthews, Toronto; J. B. VanEvery, New York. The secretary-treasurer is Geo. D. Perry, and the auditor, A. C. McConnell.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian Clearing Houses for the week ended with Thursday, September 28th, 1905, as compared with those of the previous week:

	Sept. 28.	Sept. 21.
Montreal	\$25,065,041	\$27,471,155
Toronto	20,591,282	19,852,405
Winnipeg	7,486,264	6,331,454
Halifax	1,668,165	1,771,317
Hamilton	1,327,917	1,722,451
St. John	1,071,610	1,044,530
Vancouver	1,940,329	2,084,005
Victoria	764,597	911,693
Quebec	1,677,898	1,544,492
Ottawa	2,415,230	3,066,259
London	928,153	1,019,833
Total	\$64,936,486	\$66,919,454

The Plymouth Cordage Company, of Plymouth, Mass., have begun work on their Canadian branch factory at Welland, Ont. The company has been established some fifty years, and makes binder twine, rope and cordage of all descriptions. At Welland they occupy a site comprising 180 acres, and they expect to employ about four hundred hands at the start.

The Elder-Dempster Steamship Line are endeavoring to arrange for large sales of railway ties in Mexico. Spruce and tamarac suitable for ties are to be found all through the Maritime Provinces and Eastern Quebec, and the approaching winter will doubtless see an immense quantity of them got out for shipment to Mexico with the opening of navigation. The annual consumption of railway ties in Mexico for renewals, apart from the construction of new lines, is said to be considerably over one million per year, and their value is 60 cents gold each. Sir William Mulock, who was recently in Mexico, points out the opportunity presented to Canada by the new direct line to obtain from Mexico sisal, a fibre in great request for binder twine.

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