

INSURANCE MATTERS.

An article on Insurance Business in Australia will be found on page 222; also a reference to the colonial examinations of the Institute of Actuaries.

The Paris fire brigade has gone in for automobile fire engines, which carry nine firemen besides the pumps. The motor force is available for pumping as soon as the car is brought to a standstill.

The thirtieth session of the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners will be held at Detroit from September 5th to 7th. The headquarters and place of meeting will be at the Cadillac Hotel. This is a week earlier than was originally fixed for the convention.

The list of fire insurance companies that agree not to practice overhead writing now reaches 225 in number. There are 2 Canadian, 7 European, 25 British and 191 American, according to the list sent us by the secretary of the National Fire Underwriter's convention.

Press reports and despatches for a single month, 1899, as collated by the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York, indicate defalcations as under in the United States:

Federal and State	\$ 16,854 00
Municipal	36,484 00
Transportation Companies	7,647 00
Benevolent Associations	6,544 00
Savings and Building and Loan Associations	9,804 00
Insurance Companies	14,639 00
Banks	66,000 00
Court Trusts	118,533 00
Commercial Corporations and Firms.....	53,490 00
Miscellaneous	5,465 00
Total	\$335,460 00

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

D. M., Little Metis, Que., enquires as follows: "Do I understand you aright when you say in your article on the 28th ult., on the suspension of the Ville-Marie bank, if not in direct terms, at least by implication, that shares held in trust—you instance those held by Messrs. Garand and Weir—are not held responsible for the double liability?" We reply that it was not intended to imply that the shares of Banque Ville Marie held in trust by Weir and Garand were not responsible for the double liability, but rather that no double liability on them could be collected for want of funds or other estate in the hands of the persons named. In other words, all that could be forced out of these gentlemen in an attempt to realize twice the amount of shares standing nominally at their disposal would hardly be likely to pay for the legal expenses incurred in the attempt.—Ed. M. T.

—The excursion of the Canadian Press Association, which left Toronto on Tuesday, 8th August, is meeting with gratifying receptions on its way to the Pacific Coast. There are between 100 and 200 persons on the train, members of the press and guests, some forty places in Ontario being represented, also Halifax, Montreal, Sherbrooke and Stanstead in the other provinces. The party is accompanied by a representative of the Department of the Interior, Mr. W. J. White, and by a representative of the C.P.R., Mr. A. E. Lalande. Reaching Port Arthur on Thursday, they were warmly received, and at Rat Portage on Friday a committee took charge of them, and showed them mine after mine, while the Board of Trade provided an excellent entertainment. A deputation from the Western Canada Press Association met the visitors here and accompanied them as far as Winnipeg, where hospitality was showered upon the excursionists, to many of whom it was their first glimpse of the Prairie Province capital. The secretary of The Monetary Times Printing Company, Mr. A. W. Law, who is of the party, sends us a despatch dated Brandon, 14th August, emphasizing the interest of the trip. He adds that the country is looking splendidly so far as Manitoba had been traversed, and that the yield of wheat will be immense.

On the subject of pig iron production The Iron Age in its monthly review says: Our monthly blast furnace statistics again show a more moderate increase in output than there was reason to expect, the growth in capacity being from 257,345 tons weekly of coke and anthracite iron on July 1, to 261,483 tons weekly on August 1, an increase of 4,138 tons, or say 17,000 tons a month. The furnace stocks have declined 7,500 tons and the warrant stocks 7,100 tons, a total of 14,600 tons, so that the balance of production and consumption would seem to be pretty close.

—At a recent meeting of the Quebec Board of Trade, an invitation to that board from the Toronto Board of Trade to join in a common movement of protest to the Government against the false invoices and undervaluations made to defraud the customs revenue by certain importers, was mentioned. An expression of satisfaction was made that by a special bill passed in the Commons, the Quebec Harbor Commissioners were authorized to guarantee the payment of interest on debentures of the Great Northern Railway Co., to the extent of \$200,000 to be used in the building at Quebec of a grain elevator of a capacity of one million bushels. And also that the Quebec Bridge Company has obtained from the Federal authorities a subsidy of \$1,000,000 towards the building of the bridge over the St. Lawrence river, in the immediate vicinity of the city. The Quebec Board has resolved to participate by special delegates in the international congress of commerce, to be held at Philadelphia, on the 10th of October next, under the auspices of the Commercial Museum of Philadelphia.

THE CHEESE BOARDS.

Cheese has again gained several points this week, and now stands at the highest point reached for some years. We give the range of quotations for this week and similar weeks the past two years:

1899	9 $\frac{7}{8}$ to 10 5-16 cents.
1898	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 13-16 cents.
1897	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ cents.

The quantity of cheese boarded is reasonably large, 17 boards offering 25,126 boxes, as against 23,550 boxes in the same period a week ago. We append our usual table of trade statistics:

Boards and Date of meeting.	No. of facto- ries.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price Per lb. Cts.
Brockville, Aug. 10 ..	..	3,488	2 025	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kingston, Aug. 10....	..	1,255	..	10-10/1-16
Madoc, Aug. 10.....	..	915	915	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brantford, Aug. 11....	..	2,120	1,470	9 $\frac{7}{8}$ -10
Iroquois, Aug. 11	..	774	212	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Kemptville, Aug. 11 ..	..	800	800	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Perth, Aug. 11	..	1,750	..	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
South Finch, Aug. 11 ..	..	1,283	..	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Winchester, Aug. 11..	..	545	545	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Belleville, Aug. 12 ..	12	796	276	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Cornwall, Aug. 12....	..	1,340	1 320	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5-16
London, Aug. 12	27	4,292	1,732	10-10/3-16
Campbellford, Aug. 15 ..	..	1,610	610	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -3-16
Ingersoll, Aug. 15.....	..	730	..	10
Napanee, Aug. 16	20	895	650	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pictou, Aug. 16	16	1,105	750	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
Woodstock, Aug. 16..	..	1,428	233	10

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, August 17, 1899, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	August 17, 1899.	August 10, 1899.
Montreal.....	\$14,165,212	\$14,928,646
Toronto.....	8,219,384	8,009,305
Winnipeg	1,744,768	1,931,996
Halifax	1,357,566	1,573,477
Hamilton	671,086	759,832
St. John	657,870	737,469
Victoria	711,975	741,087
Vancouver	882,802	1,014,377
	\$ 28,410,663	\$29,687,139

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,524,089; last week, \$4,608,878