

although in most instances the alarm of fire is there leisurely transmitted by telephone, and is responded to quite deliberately by firemen who live comfortably with their families in company quarters, and who, when they do get to work, use an equipment which here would be considered by all competent experts as utterly inadequate."

"Fire Insurance" was responded to by John W. Murray, who is the first vice-president of the German-American Fire Insurance Company. Mr. Murray said that fire insurance originated in the early centuries through the discovery that it was necessary to protect the earnings of those who might lose all in an hour. After the great London fire of 1666 it was found necessary to create corporate companies. The fires of 1835 and 1845 in New York, the 1871 fire in Chicago, and the Boston fire of 1872 taught the companies how to distribute their risks and avoid the wiping out of their capital in a night. "The sole aim to-day of insurance companies is not to earn big profits, but to lower the insurance tax by looking after the construction of buildings and the formation and control of fire departments."

INSURANCE MATTERS.

The president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society was in Montreal the other day, and his visit probably had to do with the fact that Mr. W. C. Van Horne, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co., has been elected a director of that Society. Mr. Van Horne is the first Canadian ever elected to the board of directors.

It is announced that the Canada Life Assurance Company has made a deposit of \$100,000 with the Ohio Insurance Department and will begin life business in that State.

The people of Truro, Nova Scotia, claim a better insurance rating than the fire underwriters give them. They sent a deputation of Board of Trade members to Halifax the other day to talk to the N.S. F.I.A. That body asked to have the facts as stated submitted in the form of a memorial, which they would refer to the home offices, with a favorable endorsement on their own part.

The *Free Press* tells us that a mutual fire insurance company under the auspices of the wholesale trade of Winnipeg has been organized, with Mr. J. H. Ashdown as president; Mr. F. W. Stobart, vice-president, and R. T. Riley, treasurer. The object of the association is stated to be "the securing of lower rates," and a guarantee fund to pay losses the first two years has been subscribed. The best way for merchants to secure lower rates from fire underwriters is to lessen the devastation by fire, which is greater in Canada and the United States, we believe, than anywhere else in the world.

The Canadian business done by the Standard for the year 1893 is described by Mr. Kerr, the chief inspector, as being eminently satisfactory in character. The lapses were not beyond normal, and the reputation of the company is so high that the prospects for the coming year are still bright.

The inspector of agencies for the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society of New York, residing at Moncton, N. B., has added to the list of agents a lady by the name of Mrs. Whittier, of Shelburne, N. S., the wife of a prominent lawyer of that place. She is said to be the first female solicitor for life insurance in the maritime provinces.

London is headquarters of the Steam Boiler and Plate Glass Insurance Company of

Canada, whose manager is Mr. James Laut. The directors are: E. Jones Parke, Q.C., president; F. A. Fitzgerald, vice-president; Hon. David Mills, John Morison, T. H. Pardom.

TEXTILE NOTES.

Mr. J. B. Ferguson, the new proprietor of the Innisville Woolen Mill, has commenced work. The chief lines of manufacture will be stoffe and farmers' cloths. The mill was formerly operated by J. F. Fairgrieve & Son.

The partnership of the Hamilton dry goods firm of Messrs. Robertson, Munro & Reid has been dissolved. J. S. Reid retires and the rest of the firm will continue business under the style of Robertson, Munro & Co., wholesale dry goods.

A Kidderminster carpet report speaking of the proposed changes in the United States tariff, says: Even if there is a less reduction in the duties on carpets than set forth in the bill of the Ways and Means Committee at Washington, there would be a benefit to the English trade, though of course the effect of a reduction in the duty on the raw material has at the same time to be borne in mind. Despite the obstacle of the tariff, Kidderminster manufacturers have still kept in direct touch with the American markets, and it is worth note that at the very time there was a scare about American carpets being thrown on the English market, English travellers were shaping themselves for a business journey to the States and Canada.

Cotton operatives are at present feeling anxious over certain rumors that point to either a total temporary closing of some of the mills, or else large reductions in the number of hands employed. Mr. Bruce, secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Company, stated to a Montreal *Star* reporter that the mills at St. Croix, N.B., and one at Hamilton were at present working on half time. He could not say, however, whether any other of the mills would be affected later on. It is understood that the cotton manufacturers propose visiting Ottawa before the present session, and urging upon the Government the necessity of continuing the present tariff.

The Guelph city council have passed a resolution favoring the application of Messrs. Newton Bros., who propose to establish a woolen factory in that city.

The Richelieu Woolen Mills at Chambly, Ont., are putting in an additional boiler.

A deputation of the woolen piece goods trade were at Ottawa this week, but what result attended their interview with the Cabinet we are not told.

METAL AND HARDWARE TRADE NOTES.

The sales of skates this year have been unusually large. Such brands as the "Columbus," "Star," "Acme" and others have all been in request, while the sale of hockey skates show a constant increase.

The demand for metals on the Toronto market is, for the season, a fairly good one, with the exception of antimony and spelter, which are best described as dull.

James Watson & Co., Glasgow, in their report of the 8th inst., say: "We have again to report an active market for Scotch pig iron. A good business has been done in all three descriptions of warrants and prices are well

maintained. The coal strike is now practically settled, and it is expected that operations will shortly be resumed in the greater part of the local ironworks."

The production of wire nails promises to overtake that of cut nails at a very early date. It exceeded the production of steel cut nails in 1891.

Among the new companies gazetted is the Bowman Hardware and Sporting Goods Co. (limited) of Hamilton, with a capital of \$90,000. The directors are Messrs. William Bowman, Joseph Bowman, Alexander McLaughlin, John Hoodless and John Young, all of Hamilton.

This year the imports [into Great Britain] of iron ore to 30th ult. are 3,786,000 tons, 375,000 tons more than in 1892, and about 800,000 tons more than in 1891.—*Iron and Steel Trade Journal*.

The English metal exports to Canada during the month of November, 1893, were as follows: Iron plates and sheet, 2,144 tons; iron and steel, 3,088 tons; bar, angle, rod and bolt iron, 300 tons; railroad iron and steel, 336 tons; hoops, sheets, and boiler plates, 571 tons; galvanized sheets, 352 tons; cast and wrought iron, 804 tons; old iron, 2,026 tons.

A meeting of the Bonanza Nickel Mining Co. was held in Berlin to-day. Among those present were Mr. Jas. Livingston, M.P., Baden; Mr. J. Moore, M.P.P., Preston, and Mr. F. Walters.—*Record*, Dec. 19th.

Most of the small steel castings are merely malleable iron, treated with animal charcoal. The operation is about the same as case-hardening, as far as the heating is concerned, but it is continued longer, and not quenched in water, in most cases. If the charges for such steel castings are much higher than for malleable iron, it may pay to experiment on them in this way.—*Iron Trade Review*.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Messrs. Lovell & Ibbotson have opened a grocery in Guelph.

Sarnia butchers think that farmers and others who sell meat around the town or on the market should take out a license.

Collingwood has received what is said to be its first direct shipment of Florida oranges.

The directors of the West Oxford Cheese and Butter Company have put in a butter making plant and are now rushing things in that line. This is said to be the first instance where a plant has been put in by the company itself.

F. Lee, of Tilbury Centre, expects to start his pork-packing establishment by January 1st.

The St. John, N. B., wholesalers have come to an arrangement in regard to the price of illuminating oils, which are fractionally higher in consequence.

Says the London *Free Press*: Mr. S. A. Armstrong has invented and introduced a new system for refining and purifying salt. It is a secret, but is being used in the salt works of the Mooretown Salt Company.

The packing of soused mackerel is about over for the season, and the output is said to be below the average of the past few years.

Canada is said to have 662 lobster canneries. Last year Canadian exports of canned salmon amounted to 10,219,868 lbs., valued at \$1,655,062. Of this, England took nearly 5,000,000 lbs., while 4,253,016 lbs. were sent to the United States.