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Established Half a Century.

At a sale of timber limits by the Department of Lands, Forests, and Fisheries, last month, about \$135,000 was realized from 1,793 square miles, the upset prices being higher than usual, owing to the great increase in the value of lumber.

LAST week a big fire in St. Stephen's, N.B., destroyed the wrapper factory with stock and machinery. The loss was nearly \$14,000. It was insured for \$12,000. Waterson's drug shop, Walls' book store, and Gregory's grocery, suffered.

THE Welland Vale Co., burned out at St. Catharines, has abandoned its request for \$100,000 loan, and ask instead that the city pay eight per cent. on the amount the company may pay out in wages and salaries up to \$4,000 per year, for the period of fifteen years.

ON Monday last, more than a hundred passengers, from all over Canada, embarked at Montreal on the favorite steamer, "Campania," bound for lower St. Lawrence ports, Cacouna, Gaspé, Bay de Chaleur, Shediac, Prince Edward Island and Pictou. The trip is a delightful one; the beauty and salubrity of some of those Atlantic ocean resorts of Canada exceed all expectation.

ON the 1st inst. a disastrous fire broke out in Brockville, which resulted in the destruction of Cossitt Bros' foundry, some lumber yards and several dwelling houses. The loss is about \$200,000 to \$300,000; only partially insured. Another destructive fire took place on the same date at Watford, Ont., in which the Mason Block, the largest building in the town, and seven other houses, were burned. In a fire at Wawanessa, Man., early this week, the Massey-Harris Co.'s implement warehouse and one or two stores were destroyed. Loss about \$5,000; mostly insured. Brownell Bros' mining property at Moser's River, N.S., has been completely destroyed by fire. Loss \$10,000; partly insured.

MR. JUSTICE DAVIDSON, in the Superior Court, dismissed the claim of Mr. E. P. Hannaford, late engineer of the Grand Trunk Railway, against the company for \$6,000, the amount of a year's salary. The railway gave a month's notice of dismissal and urged the plea that it was sufficient in case of employment by the year. This contention was upheld by the court. The part of the company's plea of compensation, through the plaintiff having used the time of the company's employees and material, was not touched on in the judgment. Mr. Hannaford has given notice of appeal.

DURING the past week there has been a perfect epidemic of big fires. Besides the terrible conflagration in New York harbor, in which three Atlantic liners and some two hundred human lives were lost, there was a destructive blaze in Buffalo in which C. L. Betts' lumber yards, covering an area of half a mile, were damaged to the extent of \$300,000 to \$400,000. In Pittsburg, too, over \$300,000 worth of property was destroyed, and several firemen killed or badly injured in a fire which started in the Best Mfg. Co.'s machine shop. A slaughter house in

Chicago, and several stores in Sioux Falls, N.D., were also among recent victims of the fire fiend, the losses there being in the neighborhood of \$75,000 and \$100,000 respectively.

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Western Assurance Co.

Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum has this day been declared upon the paid-up capital stock of the company for the half-year ending 30th June, 1900, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office of the company, on and after Thursday, the 5th inst.

By order of the Board.

J. J. KENNY,

Managing Director

Western Assurance Company's Offices,
Toronto, July 3, 1900.

British America Assurance Co.

Half-Yearly Dividend No. 113

Notice is hereby given that a dividend of three and a half per cent. upon the capital stock of this company has been declared for the half-year ending June 30, 1900, and that the same will be payable on and after Thursday, the 5th day of July, 1900.

By order of the Board.

P. H. SIMS, Secretary.

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