

Port Arthur's Petition.

The Port Arthur board of trade has memorialized the Dominion Government in favor of the proposed Ontario, Manitoba & Western railway as follows;

Whereas, experience has demonstrated that one Canadian line between the Lakes, Manitoba and the west it is not possible to move sufficient of each year's crop within the year to relieve the necessities of the producer by allowing it to be exported, via the lakes to the seaboard before the close of navigation; and

Whereas, the holding over of any portion of the year's crop to the following season of navigation entails an expense of nearly eight cents per bushel for elevator charges, storage, insurance, interest, etc., and a corresponding loss of this amount to the producer; and

Whereas, the proposed change in the policy of the government will allow Manitoba wheat to find an outlet via American channels; and

Whereas, this would tend to direct the carrying trade, and commerce of Canada from Canadian to American railways—from British to American bottoms—from the Welland and St. Lawrence canals and Montreal to the Erie canal and New York; and

Whereas, this would be detrimental to the trade which is being fostered by the wise policy of the dominion government in enlarging our canals and freeing our water and

Whereas, the building of this railway between Port Arthur and the Red river would do much toward aiding the development of the agricultural, mineral and timber resources of Western Ontario which are not now served by

any railway, as the main line of the Canadian Pacific passes 75 miles to the north; and

Whereas, this line will not only prevent the divergence of the western trade southward through the United States, but will draw the carrying trade of Western Ontario, Manitoba and the Territories, and Northern Minnesota and Dakota to Port Arthur, to be from there distributed in summer by the Canadian Pacific railway and steamers, as well as by other lake lines, and in winter by the Canadian Pacific railway to and from eastern ports through Canadian territory;

Therefore, be it resolved, that this Board do ask all other Canadian boards of trade to urge upon the Dominion government the favorable consideration of the petition of the promoters of the Ontario, Manitoba & Western railway for a charter and for such assistance as will tend to ensure the early construction of this much needed line."

Insurance Briefs.

The Standard foots the fire losses since January 1st, at \$30,599,000, and says that at this rate the losses for the year will be \$136,211,793.

It is but little more than half a century since a person convicted of arson in Massachusetts was hanged, that being the penalty for that crime at that period.

The Insurance Journal says, and it is as true as preaching, that "the local agent is the man who controls the business on his books, and he will continue to control it, whether he writes it in one company or another."

Ed. McDONALD of Portage la Prairie, Man.

has accepted the position of general agent for Manitoba and the Northwest of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Co. of Toronto.

All elevator shafts should be protected by automatic fire proof trap doors. An open elevator shaft is a glorious place for a fire originating in the lower part of a building through which to jump to all the stories above.

We see it stated that twelve New York life insurance companies for the five years past have lost an average of \$100,000,000 per annum by lapses and surrenders. People have undertaken to carry more life insurance than they could keep up, and they have had to drop out at a loss, of course.

A suit was recently brought in a Louisiana Court against an insurance company for a loss that had occurred more than one year previously. The company claimed an exemption under a clause in its policy which said, "all claims are barred under this policy unless judicially prosecuted within one year from the date of the loss," and was sustained by the court.

Cincinnati Price Current: A great many petty claims are brought against insurance companies that should never receive a moment's attention, and yet they are entertained and paid. We know of one where the party did not protect his floor, then built a big fire in an old fashioned wood stove, charred the floor and demanded a dollar and a quarter damages. It was paid and his policy cancelled. Claims of a dollar or less are frequently made for some slight damage. There was a time in the long ago when no claim of less than five per cent in the amount of a fire policy was admitted. It would be a good plan to revive such an excellent practice.

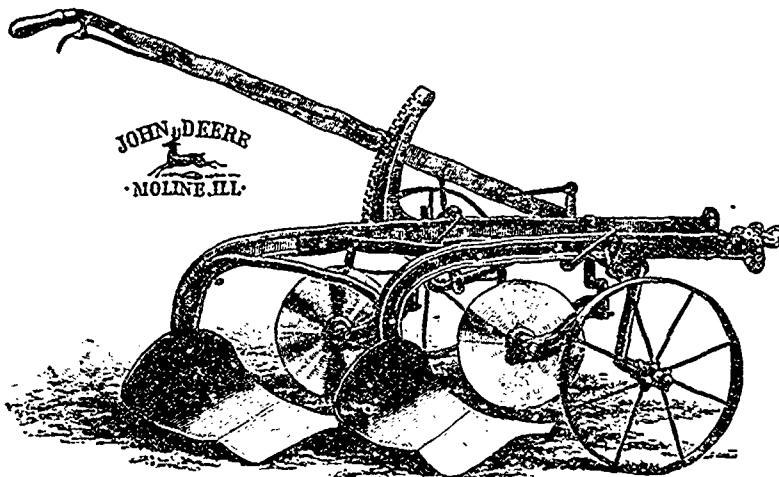
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