

### NOTES ON THE NORTH-WEST TROUBLES.

THE Canada Life Assurance Company is prepared to accept, in the usual way, risks on members of the volunteer corps, whether in active service or otherwise, without extra charge.

A CONSIDERABLE order for military cloth has been received by the Rosamond Woollen Company, of Almonte, from the Dominion Government.

Six hundred pairs of good boots have been sent to the North-West for the troops there, by order of Minister Caron.

A FIRM in Pembroke delivered, for the use of the volunteers going over the C. P. R. on their way to Saskatchewan over a ton of canned meat, 5,000 pounds ham and bacon, 2,500 pounds of fresh beef and pork, 50 tubs butter, 80 barrels biscuit, and 25 cases of canned goods.

It was a good idea to despatch a couple of intelligent and expert telegraphers, like Messrs. Pike and Lanskall, along with the force now on its way to Prince Albert via the Touchwood Hills and Humboldt. The skill of these gentlemen can often overcome "faults" in the insulation of the telegraph wires in those distant regions; while their pocket relays and a convenient "ground" may enable them to send or receive messages at any point along the route. Gen. Middleton is greatly pleased with this additional facility for keeping him advised, and we understand that the Minister of Militia has repeatedly thanked Mr. Dwight, the telegraph company's manager for this and other arrangements made to provide news from the gallant volunteers, in whom so many thousands of our people have family and friendly interests.

A NUMBER of different statements having been made in various newspapers as to the identity of the Mr. and Mrs. Gowanlock, whose cold-blooded murder by Indians at Frog Lake formed a part of the saddest chapter of the present North-West uprising, we think it well to state the truth about the young couple. Mr. John A. Gowanlock, aged 25, was born in the township of Ellis, near Stratford, Ont.; his father is Mr. James Gowanlock, now of East Otto, N.Y. State, whose sisters, Mrs. Jenny K. Trout, M.D., and Mrs. John Cameron reside in Toronto. John was the youngest of three brothers—Andrew G., proprietor of the Parkdale Times, and James, who is a millwright in this city, being the others. He had previously kept store at Battleford and removed last year to Frog Lake for the purpose of erecting a grist and saw mill under government subsidy. He had been married but four months to a Miss Theresa Johnson, of Clinton. It is not true that he was a son of Dr. Gowanlock of Stratford and a brother of Mrs. Dr. Lynch of Manitoba.

MESSRS. A. A. ALLAN & Co., wholesale manufacturers of furs in this city, have completed an order consisting of cloth helmets for the medical corps accompanying the troops in the North-West. The order was received at ten on Monday last, and the goods delivered, complete, at noon on the following day.

A SUBSCRIPTION, started among the business men of Toronto, for the praiseworthy purpose of equipping a Red Cross Ambulance Corps for service in the North-West, has reached an aggregate of more than \$2,000, in sums ranging from \$5 to \$200.

The legislature of Manitoba has passed a resolution which is calculated to re-assure those who, from ignorance, may have placed the scene of the rebellion within that province. Therein it is shown that Manitoba is entirely peaceable and law-abiding, without a known rebel within 200 miles of her borders, so that intending settlers may come to the province with perfect con-

fidence. Mr. G.W. Yarker, who has just returned from a prolonged visit in that province, states that there is very little apparent excitement in Winnipeg about the rebellion in the North-West, and that needless injury has been done to Manitoba by confusing the province with the territories of Saskatchewan and Alberta, far to the north-westward, where the troubles really are.

The case of Lieut. Morrow, of the firm of Musson & Morrow, of this city, who was accidentally shot by a pistol, in the hands of a newspaper correspondent, while on the journey to the scene of the disturbances, is a most regrettable one. The ball, which entered the thigh, has not been found, and the severity of his journey homeward, together with enforced delays and the lack of comforts—it is two weeks since he was shot—have combined to render his condition critical. Capt. Spencer, himself invalided, accompanied and nursed Morrow faithfully until Toronto Hospital was reached.

### FIRE INSURANCE TABLE.

The full-page table representing fire insurance business in Canada in 1884, which may be seen on another page of to-day's issue, will be found to give, at a glance, the salient features of Mr. Cherriman's report, compiled as it mainly is from advance figures obtained from the Insurance Branch of the Finance Department at Ottawa. The last two columns of the table, giving the ratio of fire loss to premium and that of expense to premium, are our own calculation. They show that the business as a whole has not been a losing one, for out of \$100 premium taken by all the companies, \$64.70 was paid out for losses and \$25.90 for expenses, leaving \$9.40 to the good. The British companies, which did nearly two-thirds of the business, paid \$64.10 for loss and \$24.60 for expenses, in all \$88.70 per \$100 premium. The Canadian companies got somewhat less than a third of the whole premiums and paid out \$96.00 per \$100, namely \$65.80 in losses and \$30.70 in expenses. Doing the smallest share of the business, the American companies made the most profit, for their business cost them only \$21.60 expense and \$50.10 loss per hundred dollars.

THE COTTON MILLS.—An encouraging degree of activity is reported from the principal Canadian cotton mills. The Hochelaga Mills for example, has sufficient orders to keep it employed till the end of June. The Dundas Cotton Co. making shirtings, denims and tickings, is also full of orders for the ensuing three months. The Halifax cotton factory has orders ahead for greys, and we learn from the *Herald* that a new department is being added to it for the production of colored yarns. It would appear that most of the mills are fairly well employed; at all events we hear of no clearing lots being offered, as was the case so generally in recent seasons. An advance in price is being obtained, too, on gingham and shirtings, which are produced by the St. Croix and the Dundas mills. In bleached cottons there is not the same degree of improvement, demand is slack. The factories which effected a combination in cottonades have maintained it rigidly and have managed to get a living profit on these products while at the same time they appear to have satisfied the wholesale trade. Magog prints are offered in greater variety of pattern, and it is stated by the *St. John News* that the works, which were for a week or two stopped for lack of fuel, are now running night and day.

—A comb manufactory is about to be started at River de Chute, Carleton Co.

—A cable despatch to the *Globe* dated Monday last states that the report of the directors of the Grand Trunk Railway Company deals at length with the causes of the continued falling off in the receipts of the railway. This is attributed by the Board of Directors to the following causes:—The commercial depression which Canada has shared in common with the rest of the world; the general decline of passenger business, while the rates have been diminished by undue competition; the freight traffic adversely affected by the low prices of produce prevailing in England and America; and excessive competition. It is contended that the Grand Trunk system has suffered less from these causes than the other great lines of railway in America. The total decrease in the net receipts, for the half year ended 1884 as compared with the same period of 1883, is £221,000. Working expenses show a decrease of £64,000.

—In the British House of Lords on the 26th ultimo, the Lord Chancellor introduced a bill for the amendment of the law relating to lunatics. The present law in England is that a person can be committed to a lunatic asylum at the instance of any private individual who makes a statutory declaration that the person in question is insane, and gets a certificate to that effect from the medical men. In Scotland it is necessary to hold a formal inquiry before the sheriff. This practice has been found to work well, and it is now proposed to imitate it in England by requiring the consent of a county court judge, stipendiary magistrate, or justices of the peace.

—Shipbuilding on the Great Lakes is greatly overdone, according to a recent review of that business in the *Chicago Tribune*. The same thing became too evidently true some ten years ago, American shippers being proved to be as shortsighted as some Canadian manufacturers at a more recent date. The tonnage seeking employment as soon as navigation opens will likely be larger than ever heretofore known. "Repair work is equally light, vessel owners being extremely cautious about laying out more money on their vessels than is absolutely necessary until they can see some signs of improvement in the carrying trade." It looks as if there would be little or no vessel-building on the Lakes this coming summer.

—According to the Manchester correspondent of a Cleveland journal the average value per ton of the whole of the iron ores raised in the United Kingdom in 1883 was 7s. 7d. against an average value of 7s. 3d. in 1864. The increase of value in ten years has thus been only 4d. per ton. The average official value of the iron ores imported into the United Kingdom during 1883 at home ports is stated at 17s. 2d. per ton, the difference between the two being 9s. 5d. per ton, against imported ores.

—It is proposed to consolidate, under the name of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, the two leading Exchanges of that city, the Produce and the Commercial. Committees from both bodies, to which the matter was referred for consideration, have reported in favour of the plan, recommending the surrender, by each, of its charter and the procurement from the Legislature of a new charter for the new organization, to which is to be given the right to hold real estate and personal property to the amount of \$1,000,000. The question was to be voted upon by the members of both Exchanges this week, and the indications are that the project will be approved. Commenting upon the project the