

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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**Losses During a Fire.** An inspector favours as with the following remarks and suggestive enquiry :

" I notice in your issue of to-day a discussion of the question "Are losses during a Fire valid claims?" It brought to my mind an incident of the Ottawa Fire of a year ago. I was doing what little I could to assist some of the poor people who were trying to save their belongings, and came to one house that was carefully locked up, while the husband was carrying pails of water which the wife had pumped, and he was throwing over the roof. I said to them that I wondered they did not get their furniture out of the house. They replied that they had taken away everything that was uninsured, and I think this is far from being an exceptional case, in fact I have heard merchants argue that it was better for them to have insured goods burnt than to try to save them and have them stolen.

Would it not be in the interests of the insurance company to make such allowances as will encourage the insured to do all they can to save the property ?

### Remarkable Elevator Equipment.

A description is given in "The American Elevator and Grain Trade" journal of 15th ult., of an elevator apparatus which has interest in connection with the erection of elevators in the harbour of this port. At Galveston, Texas, where an enormous amount of grain is shipped for foreign markets, there is an elevator which stands 500 feet back from the dock. A gallery spans this space with steel trusses, varying from 60 to 108 feet in length. It turns at right angles and extends along the dock 300 feet. It is equipped with a 36 inch belt conveyor, two automatic trippers, two travelling shipping spouts, and two stationary spouts. The conveyers travel 1000 feet

per minute and handle 20,000 bushels of grain per hour. The power transmission is taken by means of ropes from the elevator machinery to outer end of first gallery, at which point both sections of the conveyer are driven. Our Chicago contemporary scores this city severely for its lack of enterprise in regard to elevators, it says : "The efforts of Montreal to get a grain elevator are getting to be quite ludicrous." The writer of this sarcastic allusion to our waiting two years to get an elevator built by an alien seems to be unaware that the erection of an elevator at this port is part of a very much larger scheme, work upon which has been going on for two years at a very heavy cost. A fling is also made at Mr. Conners in following terms :

"Mr. W. J. Conners is said to have spent \$213,000 in his effort to raise capital to build his elevator system at Montreal, which does not include the \$50,000 forfeit, which he may or may not recover. It is barely possible that if Mr. Conners had been more interested in the elevators and less in the profits of promoting the scheme, his syndicate might have built all the elevators Montreal needs with another \$250,000 and have made some money on the investment too."

### Is Fire Insurance a Science?

A lively fight is going on between two insurance experts, Messrs. F. C. Moore and A. F. Dean over the question whether fire insurance is or is not "a science," which, so far as we can ascertain, it is declared to be, and sought to be proved to be, by Mr. Dean. The two combatants appeared to have overlooked an essential preliminary to the intelligent discussion of such a question, indeed of any matter in dispute, which is, the acceptance by both debaters of a definition of the term upon which the dispute turns. When one disputant regards "science"