

The Insurance & Finance Chronicle.

VOL. XVII.

MONTREAL, MAY 1, 1897.

No. 9

THE Insurance and Finance Chronicle

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month.

AT 151 ST. JAMES ST., MONTREAL.

R. WILSON SMITH, Proprietor.

Annual Subscription (in Advance) \$2.00

Prices for Advertisements on application.

All Communications intended for THE CHRONICLE must be in hand not later than the 10th and 25th of the month to secure insertion.

Hamilton and the C. F. P. A. THE Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association having become dissatisfied with the water pressure in Hamilton, recently increased the insurance rates in that city. This action appears to have aroused considerable opposition in the City Council, some of the members of which urged the adoption of the municipal insurance scheme in retaliation. Would it not be well for the Council to put the fire protection of the city in a more efficient condition, and so bring about a reduction of insurance rates? To neglect what such experts as the underwriters regard as necessary for the due protection of property in Hamilton exposes the citizens generally to serious losses, and to the risk of life being sacrificed at fires. A municipal insurance scheme would do nothing to remove or counteract this danger, indeed the probabilities are that under such a system the risks of fire would be increased. With all deference then to the Hamilton City Council we submit that their first, their imperative duty as guardians of the public interests is to make the local fire protection as efficient as it ought to be, especially in a place which rejoices in the title of "The ambitious city."

Mr. Eddy on Export duty on Pulp Wood. THE judgment of Mr. Eddy, the eminent lumber and pulp wood manufacturer, of Ottawa, carries probably more weight on matters affecting that class of business than that of any other Canadian, owing to the large interests he has at stake, and his wide experience. He has issued an appeal for the imposition of an export duty on pulp-wood of at least \$4 per cord, which would be prohibitive. His facts are as follows: the States consume 4 million tons of wood pulp yearly, of which 25 per cent. is supplied by Canada. Mr. Eddy says:

"In the past year about 600,000 cords of pulp-wood have been exported to the United States, besides which a quantity of the pulp has been ground here, principally in Nova Scotia. The cost of production of these 600,000 cords of wood into pulp, with the freight from the mills to the border, will amount to about \$5 per cord, thus depriving us of the circulation of money in labor and freights of some \$3,000,000 in the past year. If an export duty is levied to the extent I have stated, it would lead immediately to the investment of some five or six million dollars in the erection of mechanical pulp mills, stretching all the way from St. John, N.B., in the East to the Lake of the Woods in the West, and this would lead to the building up of scores upon scores of villages where waste lands now exist, and give employment to thousands upon thousands of the laboring class, and the demand for labor would be more than we could supply. The labor required to manufacture one million tons of pulp and to freight to the border would necessitate an outlay of some \$5,000,000 annually, and this alone would make a little country of itself."

Mr. Eddy disclaims all idea of retaliation, he simply advocates a policy in the interests of and for the welfare of Canada. He confirms the view we have expressed that, the supply of pulp wood from Canada is a necessity to the paper mills of the States. The appeal concludes as follows: "Under the existing system millions of money are annually paid out to foreign laboring classes which might and should be paid out to and circulated in our own country, benefiting all classes of the community, either directly or indirectly, and making a demand for labor far beyond what we are able to supply."

Mr. Eddy as a large manufacturer of wood-pulp knows whereof he speaks, his judgment outweighs in value that of "a whole theatre" of those who treat this question from a merely political standpoint.

A Poem on the Tariff.

MR RUDYARD KIPLING has broken out into verse, under the inspiration of the preferential clause of the new Tariff. The lines are ingenious enough, but the divine afflatus of poetry is not evoked by tariffs. We protest against Canada being styled by Mr. Kipling "The lady of the