

THE PATENT GUANO COMPANY—A stockholder desires to learn what has become of the assets of the Company, and who was entrusted with the winding-up of the affairs?

THE EQUITABLE LIFE-BELDING CASE

In commenting on this subject—referred to in these pages a few weeks ago—the *Insurance Journal* of Hartford concludes as follows: One thing seems very clear, and the managers of the Equitable may as well take it to heart, and, if they can, profit by it, that their New York building, handsome as it is, is a disgraceful monument to their management, and has injured the company irretrievably. If it were a good investment, and we have never known anybody with the hardihood to claim that it is—no company, standing in the position of guardian to widows and orphans, has any business to put a sum equal to more than a fifth of the money so entrusted to it in stone and mortar which cannot be sold, and whose magnificence is a standing reproach to the business of life insurance. People build palaces and monuments to gratify their pride, often, but they never pay interest on the investment, and interest is essential to the success of a life insurance company, while pride is not. Primarily, of course, those injured by this lavish expenditure are the policy-holders of the company, and no one but they have a right to complain; but when, as in this instance, their complaint becomes public, we have all a right to express our sense of what is indirectly an injury to the business, because the public cannot tell that every other corporation entrusted with its money will not be as regardless of its duty as this one has been, and waste its substance in riotous living.

FIRE RECORD.

Montreal, Aug. 24.—The warehouse of Messrs. Copland & McLaren was completely destroyed by fire, together with a number of barrels of cement. Loss about \$5,000; insured in the British America and Astoria for \$5,000 on the building and \$3,000 on the stock, respectively. Origin of fire unknown. A fire also destroyed the plaster mills of John A. Converse, St. Gabriel Locks, together with 2,000 barrels of cement and 100 barrels of tar. Total loss about \$10,000; partly insured.

Grimsby, Ont., Aug. 26.—A saw and grist mill belonging to the estate of the late Wm. Wilson was consumed by fire. Loss about \$5,000; insurance \$3,000. Supposed to have been set on fire.

Frankford, Ont., Aug. 26.—A new barn owned by Mr. Turley was destroyed by fire, together with a quantity of grain and implements. Loss about \$1,500; insured in the Hastings Mutual for \$500. Supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

Bobcatygeon, Ont., Aug. 26.—The boot and shoe store of Jos. Gorden was destroyed by fire, also an adjoining shop owned by Gorden and occupied by Chas. Souereman, jeweler; no insurance.

Cumminsville, Ont., Aug. 26.—The store of Alex. Hay was damaged by fire. Loss not estimated.

Montreal, Aug. 27.—The millinery store of Mrs. Morgan was damaged by fire to the extent of about \$300; fully covered by insurance.

Pakenham, Ont., Aug. 27.—A fire broke out in the stables of McPherson's hotel, and spread to the hotel, which was totally destroyed, together with eight other dwellings. Damage estimated at about \$15,000; about \$3,500 insurance. Supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

Belleville, Ont., Aug. 28.—A fire yesterday destroyed two double houses occupied by Thos. Wilson, the owner, John Smith, Geo. Warham, and H. Philpott. The losses were: Thos. Wilson on building \$2,400, insured in the Agricultural of Watertown, New York, for \$1,400; Smith \$200; Philpott, \$300. Another fire broke

out in the premises of Mr. Butwell. Loss about \$500; insured in the Agricultural of Watertown for \$1,500.

St. John, N. B., Aug. 28.—John Currie's barn at Louison was burned, with contents, including all his crops and farming implements. No insurance.

Montreal, Aug. 28.—A sawmill belonging to Tees Bros. was burned at South Durham, Que. The machinery was badly damaged. Insured for \$4,500, which will probably cover the loss.

Ottawa, Aug. 28.—The residences of A. King, J. Connor and J. B. Picard were destroyed by fire. Fully insured.

Ottawa, Aug. 28.—A large sawmill belonging to Messrs. Owen Bros. Montebello, was entirely destroyed by fire, together with one million feet of lumber and 300 cords of hard wood. Total loss \$26,000. Origin of fire unknown.

Ottawa, Aug. 29.—The house of J. Mills was consumed by fire. Loss about \$2,000.

Gravenhurst, Ont., Aug. 29.—Bush fires are doing considerable damage in this vicinity. A saw mill and house belonging to Mr. Godbolt has been destroyed, and it is feared others will be consumed if the wind rises.

Milverton, Ont., Aug. 29.—Beechler's sawmill was destroyed by fire. Loss about \$15,000; no insurance.

Cobourg, Ont., Aug. 30.—A fire broke out in Royal Hotel which was totally consumed, and spread to Payne's Agricultural Implement Factory which was burned with most of the contents. A stable owned by Mr. Stevenson and a grocery and house owned by Dr. Beatty were also burned. Total loss about \$20,000; W. Payne was insured for \$5,000; Royal Hotel \$1,800.

Belleville, Ont., Aug. 30.—A house owned by S. Baker and N. B. Falkiner, and occupied by Mr. Flowers, was damaged by fire to the extent of \$200; insured in the Stadacona for \$500. Mr. Flowers' loss on furniture was \$100, fully insured in the Stadacona.

Clinton, Ont., Aug. 30.—The wagon factory of W. T. Holmes & Son was totally consumed by fire with all the contents. Loss about \$5,000; no insurance. A dwelling occupied by Mr. McMurray and owned by T. Salt was also destroyed. The confectionery store, bakery and stables of T. Salt insured for \$1,350, the house of J. T. Wilkie and the dwelling and store of J. Diehl. The latter was insured for \$300 in the Western. Total loss about \$14,000.

Toronto, Aug. 30.—The cigar manufactory of C. P. Reid & Co. was damaged by fire to the extent of about \$15,000. The following is a list of the insurance losses: London Assurance Company, \$10,000; North British, \$10,000; Western of Canada, \$5,000; Royal, \$5,000; Stadacona, \$5,000; Northern, \$5,000.

Quebec, Aug. 30.—A house owned by Mrs. Skillan was burned. Insured in the Royal and Stadacona for \$800.

London, Ont., Aug. 30.—The Gold Quoit Hotel owned by Mr. Glass was totally consumed by fire with most of the contents. Loss about \$3,000; insured in the Royal for \$1,200. The dwelling of John Bogue, London Township, was also burned with contents.

Commercial.

MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, AUGUST 31st, 1876.

During the week trade has been fairly active, although the disposition has been to buy sparingly until the crop yield has manifested itself more clearly. A prominent event has been the trade sale of dry goods at the premises of Messrs. Geo. Winks & Co., at which, although the attendance was pretty good, the bidding could scarcely be called spirited, even the clever auctioneer seemed to lack his usual enthusiasm. The prices obtained were fair for the market, but

low when we consider that American cottons, which were the principal articles sold, are on the rise, owing to the closing down of many of the mills during the summer, and the consequent scarcity of supply acting on an improved demand. Taken altogether, however, the experiment may be said to have succeeded, and it is to be hoped that the buyers who were present from all quarters, from Windsor, Ontario to the City of Quebec, will see it to their advantage to order their other supplies while in the market and when goods of nearly all kinds may be said to have touched bottom, as an examination of our prices current will show. Messrs. Winks' sale is to be continued to-morrow. The money market continues unchanged. The Stock Market is quiet. A transaction in Bank of British North America took place yesterday at 130, the first recorded for some time. 50 Shares Canada Agricultural Insurance Co. sold at 102½, 60 do 103, at the open board. The monthly review of the bank statements is unavoidably crowded out this week.

ASRES.—Receipts the past two days have been large, but were previously very light. Sales of about 200 bris. First Pots throughout the week, at \$1.37½ to \$1.47½ for light to heavy tures. Seconds sold at \$3.35 to \$3.40, and in some instances \$3.50. Thirds are worth \$2.40 to \$2.45. Pearls sold at \$1.75 to \$4.85 for Firsts; Seconds, nominal. The receipts of Ashes for the year to date, have been 9,673 bris. Pots, and 837 bris. Pearls; the deliveries 7,384 bris. Pots, and 731 bris. Pearls; and the stock in store at six o'clock this evening was 4,370 bris. Pots, and 1111 bris. Pearls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Travellers have now returned from their first fall trip, and the orders now being fast completed compare favourably (although not extravagantly so) with last year. Remittances come slowly to hand, and manufacturers must apparently rest content till the result of the harvest replenishes the coffers of the country. Prices are unchanged.—See *Prices Current*.

CATTLE.—There has been a good deal more activity in the markets during the week. At the St. Gabriel market on Monday there was a good attendance, there being 13 car-loads offered, but most of which were of an inferior quality. Sales were readily made at last week's prices. One dealer sold 13 head at \$4.76 per 100 lbs., but most of the sales were made by the dollar which realized from \$3.50 to 4.75 per 100 lbs. Hogs were in good demand at from \$6.25 to 6.75 per 100 lbs. live weight. There was no demand for sheep on the market. At the Viger market on Tuesday a large number of inferior cattle were offered and which sold at slightly higher prices than the previous week. Hogs were numerous with fair demand. Sheep brought about \$5.50 each, lambs \$3.25.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business remains much the same as reported in our last. Buyers here are down and purchasing very carefully and cautiously, being evidently anxious not to increase their accounts larger than can be avoided. Prices are without any material alterations, except for Borax and Potass Iodide, which are somewhat lower. We quote as follows: Soda Ash, \$1.90 to \$2.25; Sal Soda, \$1.35 to \$1.50, according to quantity; Soda Bicarb, \$3.50 to \$3.75; Caustic Soda, 3½c. to 3¾c.; Alum, 2c. to 2½c. Extract Logwood is easier, and is quoted 10c. to 11c. for bulk, and for packages in proportion. Bleaching Powder, 1½ to 2c.

DRY GOODS.—There have been a good many buyers here during the past week, but all are buying with more than ordinary caution. We regret to say money is coming in more slowly from the West, and, as we said before, we do not look for much improvement till the grain begins to move. Our city retail trade keeps wonderfully well occupied and, consequently, much cheerfulness exists in that department.

FISH.—Demand for fish light but prices remain firm. Dry Codfish, New, \$5.25; Green do., \$5.00; do. do., Old, \$4; New Salmon, No. 1, 2, 3, \$14.25, \$13.25, \$12; Herrings, new Cape Breton, \$8 to \$8.25. Very little Dry Cod coming in. Demand for other Fish, beside New Dry Cod, small.