

Insurance.

INSURANCE MATTERS IN MONTREAL.

(From a Correspondent.)

MONTREAL, Sept. 15, 1868.

I wrote you last week the details of a very peculiar transaction in which the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company prominently figured. I hear the amount of premium received on the \$4,000,000 was \$50,000. By way of further shewing the keenness of competition here, the country agent of an English Company took a risk on a saw mill at 10 per cent. premium, the office here not liking the risk, reinsured it in a good company for 3 per cent. It has often struck me as strange that we have not a good Marine Insurance office established in Canada. I am sure it would pay, as it is astonishing the large sums remitted to the States to pay for marine risks. Our present Canadian Offices have not the capital to do a tithe of the business, and thus large sums have to be sent out of the country, benefitting neither the community nor the Government, as the American Marine offices pay no taxes, nor have they to make any deposit the same as Fire and Life offices.

FIRE RECORD.—Goderich Sept. 9.—Another very destructive fire occurred here which consumed the tannery, with contents, of Messrs. Seegmiller, together with the dwelling house of J. Seegmiller. Most of the furniture was removed from the dwelling house. There was an insurance of \$1100, which is far below the loss.

St. Johns, Sept. 2.—The St. Johns (Q.) *News* of a late date says:—"In the early part of the week, fires had been lighted in the woods adjoining the parish of St. Sebastien, and owing to the prevailing winds, spread rapidly over a vast area until it reached the farms of the Lamoureux range. Houses, barns, outhouses, fences, pickets and immense quantities of wood and grain were consumed. Twenty-five buildings of different kinds were destroyed. Among the sufferers are Messrs. Jules, Joseph and Julien Lamoureux, Bernard, Dupuis, Cyr, Dagenais and Chouinard. Several of the victims were left totally destitute by the lamentable occurrence.

Arran, Grey Co., Ont., Aug. 28.—The barn of Mr. Fawcett, of 10th Concession of Arran, was destroyed. The exact loss is not known, but as there was a large quantity of hay in the building at the time, it is doubtless heavy. No insurance.

Shipley, Ont., Aug. 29.—House and barn of Thos. Mulvey, and contents, including proceeds of the harvest; loss heavy; no insurance.

Portsmouth, Ont., Sept. 9.—P. Quinn and R. Howard's houses. The origin of the fire is mysterious, the last tenants having left the day previous; the fire also commenced in a part of the house vacant for some time. The building is insured for \$1,200, which is said to be above the value. The house destroyed belonged to Mr. Howard and was insured for \$500. So certain are the neighbours that this fire was the work of an incendiary, that they have decided to demand a Coroner's investigation into the matter.

Owen Sound, Ont., Aug. 27.—During a heavy storm the lightning struck a large barn belonging to D. Davis, junr., of Sydenham, which, with two large frame sheds, was rapidly consumed with the crop of 145 acres—value \$2,500; no insurance.

Harriston, Ont., Aug. 29.—The barn, stable and sheds on the premises of Mr. Webb, occupied by Thomas Nevans, were totally destroyed with about 120 bushels of wheat, and Mr. Nevans' farming implements. Mr. Nevans' loss will be about \$600—no insurance. It is not known whether the proprietor had the buildings insured or not. Origin of the fire unknown.

Wareham, Grey Co., Ont., Aug. 28.—Part of the outbuildings, crops and farm implements, of N. Battrick, were destroyed by fire, which origi-

nated from some burning stumps; and had it not been for the arrival of assistance, the remainder of the crop, outhouses, and the dwelling house and store, etc., would have been consumed. His loss will be about \$500, on which there was no insurance.

MARINE RECORD.—Picton, Sept. 10.—A small schooner, named the *Dolphin*, was capsized and sunk in the gale on Monday evening. There were four men on board at the time of the accident, two of whom were drowned.

FIRE ENGINE FOR STRATFORD, ONT.—A public meeting was held at Stratford a few days since, to consider the expediency of purchasing a new fire engine in place of the present one, which is considered inefficient. A large majority were in favor of the purchase if favorable terms could be made.

PEDDLARS vs. THE DAILY NEWS.—The *News*, of Montreal, in a recent article, confesses that it was led into the publication of the article complained of by the plaintiff respecting the Etna Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, by false representations, and makes an apology, which it is supposed will lead to a settlement of the affair.

OCEAN MARINE LOSSES FOR AUGUST.—The table of marine losses upon the ocean for the month of August, gives an aggregate of thirty-two vessels. Of this number three were ships, eight were barks, ten were brigs, and eleven schooners; of the above three were missing, supposed lost, and two sunk after collision. The total value of the property lost and missing is estimated at \$948,000.

The following table gives the losses from the 1st of January up to the present time, as compared with the three preceding seasons:—

	Vessels.	Tons.
Total losses for January.....	43	\$2,479,400
Total losses for February.....	32	1,648,000
Total losses for March.....	30	1,478,800
Total losses for April.....	41	1,041,000
Total losses for May.....	22	519,000
Total losses for June.....	22	1,364,000
Total losses for July.....	6	202,000
Total losses for August.....	32	948,000
Total for eight months.....	228	\$10,600,000
Same period in 1867.....	455	15,455,000
Same period in 1866.....	267	18,664,800
Same period in 1865.....	243	19,738,000

AN INCENDIARY FIRE MARSHAL.—In a recent number we mentioned that the city of Montreal, desirous to imitate our system of holding inquests upon conflagrations, appointed two fire marshals for the purpose—gentlemen who, being lawyers, had no other qualification for the appointment than that of being expert in matters of evidence. Thus to perform the rougher duties of the office a deputy was required, and it was thought that a proper person was found in a Mr. J. C. Davis, of whom it is now said that he fled from this city to avoid a charge of perjury, while employed here in the excise service. However little truth there may be in the latter allegation, he seems to have terribly overstepped the functions allotted to him in the former. He was of an enterprising character, and determined to supply the deficiencies that led to inactivity by promoting a crime that he was commissioned to suppress, so he became the incendiary as well as the deputy marshal.

It appears that this Mr. Davis has been adding to the conflagrations of the New Dominion by setting fire to the houses of Montreal, and then in virtue of his office entering upon inquiries into the cause of disaster as gravely as if he were a spotless judge. However great the energy with which the enquiry was affectedly pursued, the crime was not adroitly practiced; for the delinquent was detected, and it was found that many of the fires upon which he held a sort of judicial inquest were the work of his own hands, and he is now under arrest to answer for his guilt.

Thus, added to the disqualification of the two legal fire marshals for the discharge of the duties to which they were appointed by an indiscreet

Common Council, a still more unfortunate selection was made in that of Davis, who with a deep shade upon his character, retreated from this city in the hope of finding refuge amongst a people by whom he was unknown. Why this utter stranger should have been preferred by the marshals to the many competent persons for the incumbent duties which Montreal must contain is somewhat incomprehensible, but we should hope that the result to which it has conducted will promote a complete reform in the original appointment, so that a fire marshal will be chosen who will be competent to perform the duties without a deputy as his principal.—*N. Y. Insurance Journal.*

INSURANCE DEPOSITS.

The *Post Magazine*, in reviewing Supt. Barnes' last report, and referring to the required deposit of \$100,000 for the protection of policy-holders by new life Companies, says: "It would be a capital improvement of our own system of forming Insurance Companies if a deposit of a like sum were enforced. The advantage of it, the Superintendent says, has been abundantly justified by experience in the United States; and he seems disposed to recommend an increase of the amount."

THE PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE INSURANCE.

It is a distinguished characteristic of man in a state of civilization that he takes some thought of the future—not living, like the American Indian, careless of to-morrow's fire, content with the evils and pleasures of the day. One of the necessities of American society, as well as that of all other highly civilized countries, is Life Insurance. The man who has lived in such a country has learned the necessity of anticipating the future and providing against its contingencies—the periods of sickness, the affirmities of age, and the comfort of those who depend upon him. Our male population are emphatically a race of producers. The fortunes and support of a great majority of our families are in the productive brain or hand of the paternal head. When that is taken away how often does it follow that the widow and children are suddenly reduced to want—dependent upon their own exertions for support! The first public office for the insurance of lives is said to have originated with Rev. Wm. Annett, D.D., of Middleton, in Lancashire, England, about 1698, for the benefit of widows of clergymen and others. The poverty in which clergymen leave their families has become proverbial, and it is not at all strange that the subject of Life Insurance should first have been thought of in connection with the prominent class of unfortunate widows. They were pre-eminently dependent upon their husbands for support; but no more so than the families of every laboring man in this country to-day. The life of every man has a value; not merely a moral value, as weighed in the scale of social affection and family ties, but a value which measured in money or productive capital. It is to replace the loss of such a resource that Life Insurance was first thought of, and many a dependent family, which has been deprived of its head, has felt no emotion of gratitude toward these great and good men who first conceived the idea of Life Insurance, and who, after much toil, and scientific research, gave an idea to the world, in the form of a fact, at once available to all. The inheritance secured by Life Insurance, which at the death of the husband, descends to his wife and children, confers a benefit not only on the widows and orphans, but on society at large, by preventing their dependence on the charities of the public, the breaking up of the family relation, and the destruction of home. If every husband and father would thus leave to his wife and family an inheritance, poverty would be confined to narrower bounds, and the national prosperity would be advanced.

That modern organization, known as the Social