THE MONETARY TIMES AND TRADE REVIEW-INSURANCE CHRONICLE.



scarcity this year, unless it be merely an artificial one. THE WAREHOUSE of W. & D. Yuile Montreal,

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was burned on the night of 24th Sept. The stock of chemicals and sundries burned with a most unusual and dangerous brilliance, repeated explosions shaking the building to its foundation. The stock of dry goods in the adjoining warehouse of McIntyre, French & Co., though neither wet nor burned, was damaged by the dense smoke, and will shortly be sold at auction.

THE first steamer which ever navigated the north branch of the river Saskatchewan has just reached Fort Carleton. She left a point above the Grand Rapids, or Forks, made the distance of 450 miles in ten days, and would shortly leave for Edmonton, which is within about 200 miles of the British Columbia boundary, and close to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, which are expected to be reached by boat next spring.

THE change of gauge of the remaining portion of the Grand Trunk Railway, from Montreal to Portland, was made last Saturday, the 26th September, in one day, and with interruption to only one passenger train each way, a fact which, however simple and brief to read about, is nothing short of gigantic, even in those days of marvels. This railway is, therefore, to-day of the uniform gauge of four feet eight and a half inches from Portland to Detroit, and all leading American Railways can now interchange cars with the Grand Trunk without break of bulk or guage.

A MEETING of the Toronto Board of Trade was held on Monday last to discuss the draft Reciprocity Treaty. Mr. J. G. Worts argued

seconded by Mr. A. M. Smith was carried by a considerable majority : "While approving " generally of the principle of Reciprocity, it is " the opinion of this meeting that the present " draft of the Reciprocity Treaty is unfavourable " to the country; and that the equivalents "offered are too great." Mr. Jno. Turner moved a resolution differing somewhat from the foregoing, but condemning the Treaty in some respects and desiring its amendment. This was voted down.

IMPORTATIONS at Montreal for August show -according to the Herald - a decrease as compared with August 1873, the figures being \$4.821,935 and \$4.965,287 last year. The leading articles of dry goods compare as follows :--

Cottons Woollens Silks & Velvets	· I.060.080	Aug. 1874. \$399,602 976,093 195,935
D	\$1.782,041	\$1.571,630

Decrease..... 210,411 This is a large decrease for a single month, and is a pretty clear indication that more conservative views are prevailing. It might have been expected that the abundant harvest just gathered in would have stimulated foreign purchases sufficiently to maintain the figures of last year, but the explanation is this: these figures were enormously large, and the demand for goods from the lumbering districts will only be a fraction of what it was last year.

For the third time in rapid succession Windsor, Ont., last week, suffered by fire. In the present case, a range of wooden buildings on the main street was burned, which could be well spared, five or six merchants, however, were burned out, which cannot be so well afforded. the matter at length in opposition to the Treaty In Campbellford, Ont., about the same time,

on Saturday last, in Picton, Ont., eight dwellings and shops were consumed. Each of these three places, if we remember aright, has had bitter enough experience of this kind to take more active and thorough measures than have yet been taken to prevent these repeated and extensive hurnings. In Newboro, Ont., five tradesmen have just been burned out, Lennoxville, Que., has been all but destroyed by fire; the whole business portion of the town is gone, involving a loss of \$200,000. Fire engines and appliances were brought from Sherbrooke, but not in time to avert the above disastrous loss. Let every wooden-built town take warning and provide some safeguards against fire.

OIL MATTERS IN PETROLIA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PETROLIA, Sep. 29, 1874. Nothing of importance to note this week ; the shipments of Crude still continue to be fully up to the production, with prices about the same. No new reliable strikes, but some wells testing, business very flat with no appearance of im-provement. The Refiners' Association is working well and seems to give satisfaction. Developments very slack, no new wells of any importance having been got for the last three months; at present it is hard to denote the most favored territory, as the north-west is desirable and the Durham Creek has not proved valuable to investors. At the same time, of the two, the latter is preferred. The Home Works are working for the Association, but refiners as a whole, are doing little or nothing. Price of Crude 80c; Refined 221 to 25c; car lots 23c; one car 25c, single barrels, per gallon. United States market is as follows Sept. 23 : Titusville, Penn., Crude, Upper Creek, \$1.02, per barrel; Parker Landing, 173c per barrel; Refined, 52 to 52c in bulk, 92 to 92c in barrels—with a cent per gallon higher for a higher test; the market was quiet but steady.