

there is barely room for a cart to pass between them. In all the better class of tenements there is either an upright shaft of wood provided, or a gallery passage giving access to a shed in the rear. These structures connect with a balcony upon which rest the posts of a wooden awning on the line with the uppermost windows. Were then one of these shafts to catch fire, it would be like a torch applied to the outside woodwork of the upper tenement, and in a few minutes a disastrous fire would be raging in both dwellings. The exigencies of life in this city seem to necessitate the system of upper and lower tenement houses, with the accompaniments above stated. How to obviate, or minimize, the dangers they involve it is difficult to say, but some day there will be a catastrophe that will draw attention to the congested places we have described, the further increase of which ought to be restrained by a by-law. As to the shafts and galleries of more costly houses, it is worth considering whether in future such structures should be covered with metal, or something more effectual done to lessen the risks. We saw a bonfire recently at the foot of an upright shaft, which some boys had lighted. Luckily the flames were quickly put out by a neighbor, or in a few moments there would have been a very serious fire in two or more large houses.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN HAGUE.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Hague, for many years connected with the editorial department of this paper. The sad event took place on the 19th inst., at his residence, St. Famille street, in this city, at the age of 77 years. He had been in ill health for some months, but his buoyant disposition and force of character enabled him to maintain an appearance of normal strength. He was greatly esteemed by everyone with whom he was associated either in business or socially.

He was exceptionally well read, and possessed a wide knowledge of a variety of subjects. His views were always expressed frankly, without prejudice or bias, and with practical insight of the subject he treated.

The late Mr. Hague was born at Rotherham, Yorkshire, England, and began his career as a banker. He became a contributor to the press at an early age. Coming to Canada 35 years ago, he continued his banking career in one of the leading banks. Subsequently adopting a journalistic profession.

We tender our respectful sympathy to his widow and family.

REMARKABLE INCREASE OF POPULATION IN WESTERN TOWNS.

The Census just completed of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, shows a remarkable growth in the following towns and cities during the past five years. Brandon, Portage la Prairie, St. Boniface, Winnipeg, Moose Jaw, Regina, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer, etc.

We append a copy of the census taken showing the population for 1901 and 1906:

MANITOBA—		
	1901.	1906.
Brandon	5,620	10,409
Carman	1,439	1,530
Dauphin	1,135	1,671
Gladstone	731	828
Gretna	666	646
Killarney	585	1,117
Manitou	617	716
Minnedoza	1,052	1,300
Morden	1,522	1,438
Neepawa	1,418	1,895
Pilot Mound	446	589
Portage la Prairie	3,901	4,985
St. Boniface	2,019	5,120
Souris	838	1,413
Stonewall	589	1,074
Winnipeg	42,340	90,216
Totals	64,918	124,947
Increase in five years		60,029
SASKATCHEWAN—		
Alameda	104	333
Arcoia	129	652
Carnduff	190	491
Davidson		520
Indian Head	768	1,545
Moose Jaw	1,558	6,250
Oxbow	230	530
Qu'Appelle	434	778
Regina	2,249	6,217
Saskatoon	113	3,031
Wapella	397	459
Whitewood	359	501
Welseley	409	835
Totals	6,940	22,142
Increase in five years		15,202
ALBERTA—		
Calgary	4,091	11,937
Cardston	639	1,002
Edmonton	2,626	11,534
Fort Saskatchewan	306	5-6
Lacombe	499	1,015
Leduc	112	391
Lethbridge-Stafford	2,072	
Lethbridge		2,325
Stafford		625
MacLeod	796	1,144
Ponoka	151	473
Red Deer	323	1,420
Strathcona	1,550	2,927
Wetaskiwin	550	1,648
Totals	13,715	37,025
Increase in five years		23,310

SOVEREIGN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY. TORONTO.

The Sovereign Fire Insurance Company, Toronto, having decided to enter the United States, have appointed Messrs. Starkweather & Shepley, New York, its representatives. There is a wide field in the United States, for the business of fire insurance.