

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1861

R. WILSON-SMITH, Proprietor

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. XXVII. No 17.

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 1907

Single Copy - 10c
Annual Subscription, \$2.00

Foreign Fire Companies in the United States.

THE dependence of the United States upon Great Britain and Continental Europe with respect to fire insurance, is well set forth in a tabulated statement prepared by The Insurance Age of New York. It is there shown that in seventeen years the United States branches of foreign companies have remitted to their head offices \$62,503,763, while on the other hand they have drawn upon them to the extent of \$94,494,041. This difference of nearly \$32,000,000 must practically have destroyed all the profits ever made by foreign fire companies in the United States. The error of state legislatures in placing heavy taxes and other disabilities upon foreign companies becomes absurdly apparent in the light of such a record.

For the Port of Montreal.

THE resolution providing for a twenty year 3 p.c. loan of \$3,000,000 to the Harbour Commissioners of Montreal, has been passed by the House of Commons.

In the course of his remarks the Finance Minister pointed out that, in round figures, \$7,250,000 had already been expended, leaving about \$1,000,000 still available. In addition to this the Commission needed \$3,000,000 to complete terminal facilities. Interest had always been promptly paid upon previous loans, and the welfare of the whole Dominion prompted the advancing of this additional amount. Mr. Fielding spoke appreciatively of the work and plans of the new Harbour Commission, and said that it had already submitted to the Government details of the proposed improvements. Some of these, as outlined by Chairman Stephens of the Commission, are as follows:

"For the completion of the sheds, \$2,225,000; elevated roadways, \$300,000; Dominion Coal Com-

pany wharf at Hochelaga, \$250,000; paving wharves, \$125,000; railway tracks, \$75,000; raising Jacques Cartier Pier, \$35,000; completing Bickerdike pier, \$25,000; fire and police protection, \$10,000; harbour dredging, \$300,000; and other items, making a total of \$3,446,000. The commission has on hand \$950,000, so that about \$3,000,000 is actually required."

Consols and the British Budget.

GENERAL prosperity is reflected in the recent British budget. A surplus of nearly \$27,000,000 was realized during the past fiscal year, the treasury receipts proving to be \$10,000,000 more than anticipated. The funded national debt was reduced by about \$68,500,000, while nearly \$49,000,000 of the unfunded debt was paid off. The expenditure for 1907-08 was estimated by Mr. Asquith at \$703,785,000, which is \$8,320,000 less than for the last fiscal year. It is anticipated that the divisible surplus for the current year will be about \$9,165,000.

The announcement of a reduction of the income tax on earned incomes of less than \$10,000 a year was the outstanding feature of the budget statement. Hereafter such incomes will pay only ninepence, while the existing tax of a shilling on the pound sterling on unearned incomes will remain. This reduction will be in addition to all the present rebates, but it will be confined to the earned incomes of persons whose total returns from all sources do not exceed \$10,000 a year.

It is estimated that this change will entail a reduction of \$6,250,000 in the national revenue. Counterbalancing this in part, is an anticipated increase of \$3,750,000 in death dues on larger estates.

While the past year's reduction in the national debt is but a small fraction of a funded total reaching well on to four billion dollars, still the entering