

MONTREAL FIRE INVESTIGATIONS.

Three hundred and fifteen fires occurring in Montreal during 1894 were investigated by Messrs. Perry & Poirier, fire marshals of that city, who have sent us a printed report thereon, printed in both English and French.

In only twenty-five of the cases was there no insurance, and the aggregate damage done to buildings or goods in these 315 fires was little less than half a million—\$497,774. The marshals examined 647 witnesses. They decide that a large share of the fires originated through explosion of coal-oil lamps and a lesser number through the use of lucifer matches.

We were quite prepared to find in a list of more than three hundred fires a dozen or a score of accusations of incendiarism; but the report says that only two persons were charged before the marshals with that crime; one was acquitted by these officers, and the grand jury acquitted the other. Still, it is a good and proper thing, as a deterrent for the people to be found in every community who will "beat an insurance company" if they can, to have officers whose duty it is to investigate every fire. In the list here given of losses incurred on the respective premises and amount of insurance thereon, we find the following items:

Properties.	Insurance.	Losses.
Boot and shoe shops.....	\$137,400	\$11,636
Cigars and tobacco	21,451	5,951
Clothiers' stores	115,850	14,034
Dwellings	142,260	45,585
Dry goods stores	47,700	25,210
Electric company.....	330,400	37,473
Fancy goods	116,950	62,700
Furniture stores.....	22,300	20,012
Groceries.....	164,600	95,851
Hotels and restaurants....	43,934	13,934
Laundries	47,000	34,631
Millinerie	11,700	9,000
Paper boxes	43,150	5,350
Provisions	144,200	31,097
Stables and sheds.....	37,895	15,075
Sewing machine factory ..	162,455	29,662
Warehouses	9,000	14,630

The aggregate of insurance upon the properties investigated is given by the report at \$1,505,605, the loss amounting in all to about one-third of this sum.

MONTREAL TRADE FIGURES.

The imports at Montreal last month were a good deal less than in January, 1894, the dutiable goods being \$1,743,000 in value as compared with \$2,108,000; and the free goods only \$499,000 against \$954,000, being last month

mainly raw cotton, chemicals, hides, furs, crude rubber, tobacco leaf, hemp, tea and coffee. The exports, which are small in winter at our chief city, were \$479,000 in value last month, of which all but \$79,000 was the product of Canada, consisting of cheese (\$257,000), leather, horses and sheep, hay, wood, minerals, &c. The products of fishery or forest were hardly represented in the list of exports. The "coin and bullion" shipped was American gold passing through Canada.

Dry goods imported show a much reduced aggregate, \$939,016, where in January, 1894, they were \$1,154,448; the only increase is in cotton goods, all others are reduced. Metal goods drop from 230,025 down to \$127,983, the great bulk being of course iron and steel and manufactures of, which were only \$108,000 in value, where in the previous January it was \$196,719. There are reductions in the items of books and pamphlets, paper and envelopes, spirits, wines and fruits, gutta percha goods, paints, oils, and wood goods, jewellery and watches. The articles which show an increased import last month are leather and its manufactures, drugs and medicines, glass and glassware.

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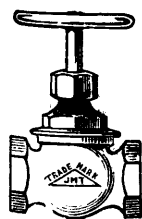
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