

IF THE CIVIC AUTHORITIES really want this question settled, there appear to be no insuperable difficulties in the way, for it is so manifestly in the interests of the company, from a business point of view to have it arranged that it, no doubt, is ready to make concessions commensurate with business principles. We need not enlarge further upon this subject, because we have already dealt extensively with it.

A DISPATCH FROM GOETTINGEN, PRUSSIA, dated the 4th, says that the seismograph at the observatory there registered a powerful earthquake 14,000 miles distant from that town, the vibrations lasting two hours. As the circumference of the earth is only about 24,000 miles, it is difficult to locate any place on the planet 14,000 miles away from any other place on it.

THE FIRE LOSSES in the United States and Canada during the first nine months of the present year according to the New York "Journal of Commerce" amounted to \$400,587,750, a figure which according to our contemporary was never before equalled in the country. During the month of September the losses aggregated \$10,852,550 or about \$3,000,000 less than in the corresponding month last year. The abnormal losses for the first nine months are, of course, largely accounted for by the San Francisco fire.

INCREASED PROVINCIAL SUBSIDIES.—Important meetings have been held during the last week at Ottawa between the provincial premiers and Sir Wilfrid Laurier with reference to the question of the proposed increase in the subsidies granted to the Provinces. There is a disposition on the part of some of the daily papers to treat the provincial demands rather flippantly, as an unjustifiable grab. This question, however, like most questions has at least two sides to it. On the one hand, there is danger in creating a precedent, which may be followed up too far, whenever the Provinces find themselves suffering from the natural consequences of extravagant administration.

ON THE OTHER HAND there is no denying that the older Provinces at least have an element of justice in their demand for a readjustment. Nominally the subsidies are fixed upon a per capita basis—80 cents a head, but in the cases of Ontario and Quebec, the allowance is made upon the populations of those two Provinces respectively in 1861. In the case of Nova Scotia it is made upon the population of 1891, in New Brunswick, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, that of 1901 and in the newer Provinces upon the present estimated populations.

THUS FOR THE PURPOSE of estimating the subsidies the population of Ontario is assumed to be 1,396,091 that of Quebec 1,111,566, whereas the actual population of Ontario in 1901 was 2,182,947 and that of Quebec 1,648,898.

ANOTHER ARGUMENT from the point of view of the old Provinces is that their people are the chief contributors to the federal revenue and that some of the expenditures imposed upon them under the B. N. A. Act have increased out of proportion to their revenues.

THE BUCKINGHAM RIOTS.—Judging by the number of warrants applied for, it seems likely that every opportunity will be afforded for a thorough investigation into the question who are responsible and to what extent each individual is responsible for the lamentable bloodshed at McLaren's Mills. By this time all the parties concerned ought to be convinced of the folly of such waste of human life and to be satisfied that mischief enough has been done. It is to be hoped that the talk of further trouble is only idle surmise. The conviction of the rioters it must be remembered does not necessarily acquit the police and local authorities of indiscretion. Nor does the condemnation of the police acquit the rioters of law-breaking. This is a case for rigorous investigation and prompt punishment of whoever is responsible no matter where the lash has to fall.

GOLD FOR THE ROYAL BANK.—The Allan SS. "Victoria" this week brought out a million dollars in English gold, consigned to the Royal Bank of Canada in Montreal.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON INSURANCE

The examination of Union Trust Co. officials, has continued to occupy the attention of the commission for some days. A great deal of time has been taken up with a renewal of the examination of Hon. Geo. E. Foster, which covered almost all the matters that have already been referred to. Hon. G. W. Ross said he had been a director of the Union Trust Company for two or three years, and held \$1,000 worth of stock, for which he has paid. He had only a slight knowledge of the Great West Land Company deal, and had never been aware that any bonus stock had been given to the Union Trust Company for financing the transaction, nor that Dr. Oronhyatekha had received 100 shares. He knew that the Union Trust Company wanted to unload itself of the lands, but had no knowledge of the stock transactions. He remembered several items of business that had been taken up at the directors' meeting of November 7, 1905, but not the discussion relating to the Great West Land