

A portion of the large increase in assessed value, in 1863, is explained by the circumstance, that certain valuable properties, exempt from assessment, were placed upon the roll for the first time.

MUNICIPAL TELEGRAPH.

The Fire, Water, and Police Departments of the City Government are thoroughly connected by Kennard & Co.'s Fire-Alarm and Police Telegraph, completed at an expense of \$20,000; and which was brought into operation on the 19th January, 1864. The Central Police Station is thus in constant communication with all the other stations throughout the city, enabling the Chief instantly to concentrate his forces in any case of emergency. By the same agency, the Superintendent of the Water Works can communicate with the attendants at the wheel-house, at the work-shops, or at the reservoirs.

For facilitating the movements of the Fire Department, Montreal is divided into four districts. There are sixty-four signal-boxes placed throughout the city, at comparatively short distances apart; an alarm (giving the number of the station) is sounded on a church-bell, in each district, and tapped in every signal-box throughout the city, generally within a minute of the time when the intelligence was first communicated. The Fire Brigade can, therefore, go almost direct to the place where the fire has occurred. There are 527 public fire-hydrants, located at from 300 to 600 yards apart, each capable of supplying two streams of water with the force of jets from steam fire-engines.

Two years' experience with the fire-alarm telegraph has given a sense of security to the public, and disarmed opposition that had been made to its adoption; and it seems now to be demonstrated, that the occurrence of such conflagrations as have in times past devastated large portions of the city is rendered almost impossible. No wooden dwellings are now allowed to be built within the city limits.

CITY WATER WORKS.

The city is abundantly supplied with water, brought from the River St. Lawrence, at a point beyond the Lachine Rapids, to the wheel-house by an aqueduct. The pumping machinery has hitherto been driven by two breast-wheels, which raised 3,000,000 gallons every twenty-four hours. A new and

* In a number of copies of the Report printed last year, it was said that the unassessed property belonged to Religious Orders. That statement was, however, corrected by noting the approximate values of properties yielding no revenue to the Corporation, as follows:—

Property belonging to Religious Institutes or Orders	\$1,284,500
Property belonging to the City	760,394
Property belonging to the Provincial Government	665,800
Property belonging to the Military Government	223,860

\$2,934,494

This sum, deducted from the amount placed opposite 1863, leaves \$31,898,436 as the assessed value of all other property,—showing the increase to have been much larger in that year than in any of the preceding four.