

somewhat from ours, published last week:—Quebec Office, \$125,000; North British and Mercantile, \$5,600; Phoenix, \$11,500; London Assurance Corporation, \$1,200; Provincial, \$12,200; Home Insurance Company, \$55,000; Western of Canada, \$6,100. We are also informed that the loss of the above Company will be at least \$9,200. Liverpool, London and Globe, \$15,000. The same paper says that the fire originated in the premises of a Mr. Lortie, baker, and had been burning half an hour before the alarm was rung. Had the fire brigade received prompt notice they could have checked the fire before it could have communicated with the buildings on the opposite side of Crown street, which is at least 50 feet wide. The cry for more water was heard from all quarters. The Corporation brigades as well as the voluntary firemen, worked well throughout, and with great persistency and determination, but their labor was all in vain. It is true a number of jets were in use at the same time, which considerably diminished the force of the water. This, however, can not now be urged as an excuse, for the imperfect, and next to useless condition of our fire system for these purposes, and the sooner the City Council take this matter in hand, the better for persons enjoying real property in this City. We want for the moment, two good steam fire engines, available at a moment's notice. Had we the use of two such engines, the burning of two splendid ships could not have occurred.

Scarboro', May 20.—Outbuildings of the widow of the late Henry Haines were burnt; loss \$750; insured in Beaver Mutual in full.

Wolfe Island, May 25.—Barn and contents of Mrs. Craine; loss \$300; fully insured in Beaver Mutual.

Vaughan, May 31.—Outbuildings of William Devlin, with their contents; insured for \$1,500 in Beaver Mutual.

Cartwright Township, Ont., May 30.—House of John Bruce was burnt; insured.

Markham, May 28.—House of R. A. Gray burnt; insured for \$600 in Beaver.

—Mr. A. McDonald, of the Agricultural Mutual, of London, is now engaged in establishing agencies of the company in the Province of Quebec, where the Agricultural already does a considerable business.

—The New York *Insurance Times* devotes two pages to an exposition of the affairs of the Home Insurance Company of New Haven. From the estimate of its assets and liabilities, given by the *Times*, it appears that more than half the \$1,000,000 of capital is entirely lost. As the Home does business in Canada, this statement is of some interest on this side the lakes.

MONTREAL FIRE ALARM TELEGRAPH.

On 19th January, 1863, the new telegraph went into operation. At the same time the Fire Department was re-organized, the volunteer companies were disbanded, and the number of paid regulars increased. The present force consists of thirty men and officers, one hose-maker and assistant. This force is found adequate to do work effectually for a population of 130,000, which 380 men but imperfectly attempted for the smaller community of from 40,000 to 50,000.

Fifty-six telegraph signal stations, each containing a perfect telegraph apparatus working automatically, are enclosed in a cast iron case or box, to which the police have access by a master key. The signal boxes are connected with a Central Office in the City Hall, whence issue the signals to the different fire stations. In the event of a fire the policeman proceeds to the nearest signal box, opens the door, pulls a handle, lets go. The electro-apparatus instantly works, indicating the number of this box in the Central Office by ringing for say, thirty-four; one, two, three; one, two, three, four—34, or any other number as the box may happen to be. The city

being in districts, this signal is instantly communicated from the Central Office to the different stations within the District, where the fire may happen to be, or to more, or to all if necessary. In this way an alarm is completed in from ten to fifteen seconds. But the sectional station men have their hose reels hoisted the instant the alarm begins, horses being always in harness and men at hand. By the time the alarm has struck they know the exact spot they are to go to. The number of signal box stations is nearly the same as that of the water works hydrants. One can be found in every 250 or 300 yards. A fire can scarcely take place in any part of the city that some portion of the Fire Department cannot reach in the course of two minutes from the moment of alarm. The results of these improvements—high pressure water supply, regular paid fire police, and fire alarm telegraph—has been the reduction of the cost of fire insurance fifty per cent. The value of saving may be further comprehended by the following items: The amount of property insured in the city of Montreal is over fifty millions of dollars. Assuming it, however, at that amount, the cost of insurance at 62½ cents per \$100 is \$312,500. And the saving of fifty per cent. is \$156,250 annually. It is the opinion of those who are well able to judge that the fire alarm telegraph alone has doubled the value of the water works for fire purposes. And if half three million dollars, the cost of those works, be set off for this particular service the amount, one and a half millions, (1,500,000) indicates its value.

There can be no doubt that a large part of the saving on insurance is due to the telegraph fire alarm. Add to this the saving due to cessation of pilfering at fires. The loss by pilfering in the previous condition of the city was considered quite equal to that by fire during the dull season of trade and employment.—*Montreal Gazette*.

Railways.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—Traffic for week ending May 13th, 1870.

Passengers	25,995 58
Freight and Live Stock.....	46,681 28
Mails and Sundries.....	2,319 63
Total Receipts for week	\$74,996 49
Corresponding week, 1868....	72,888 33
Increase	\$2,108 16

ST. FRANCIS AND MEGANTIC INTERNATIONAL RAILWAY COMPANY.—The Provisional Directors of this Company met at Cookshire, on the 25th May, when the following gentlemen were appointed officers of the Company. J. H. Pope, M. P., President and Managing Director. The Hon. J. S. Sanborn, Vice-President. R. W. Heneker, Sec'y and Treas. Business Committee: The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer, and T. S. Morey, Esq., to meet at Sherbrooke.

THE CASPIAN.—This is a second addition to Messrs. Allan's Montreal steam fleet, built and engine on the Clyde, during the past fortnight; the splendid steamer "Scandinavian," built by Messrs. Robert Steele & Co., Greenock, having left the river about a fortnight ago. The "Caspian" has been turned out by the London and Glasgow E. & N. S. Company, Limited. She is a barque-rigged steamer of 2,650 tons; length over all, 360 feet; breadth, 38 feet; and depth of hold to weather deck, 32 feet. Her engines, which are inverted surface condensers, with patent gridiron valve motion, are 400-horse power, the diameter of cylinders being 67 inches, and stroke of piston 42 inches. Accommodation has been provided for 64 first-class, a number of second-class, and 500 steerage passengers; the officers and crew having excellent berths allotted to them. The main

saloon, which is fitted with bird-eye maple and gold mounting, can accommodate seventy persons at dinner. The ventilation and heating of the ship is very complete, while every scientific improvement for the comfort of the passengers and the stowage of cargo has been introduced.

TROY WEIGHT.—The concluding report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the expediency of discontinuing the use of troy weight within the United Kingdom has just been published, and its abolition recommended. It has been in vogue since the days of Edward I., when it succeeded the Tower pound, which had prevailed from the Conquest, the troy pound, consisting of twelve ounces of 450 grains, or three-quarters of an ounce more than the old Tower pound. Troy is now chiefly used for the precious metals, and its abolition is recommended on the ground that, on the intended legislation of the metric system, and the concurrent use of avoirdupois which is to be permitted, it would produce confusion and complication were this distinct system to remain in force. So it has been resolved that, after a period of ten years, the use of troy weights shall be illegal, and those now making use of them are to be permitted to substitute either avoirdupois or metric weights, every facility being afforded them for this object.

UNIVERSAL STANDARD OF MEASUREMENT.—According to the *Memorial Diplomatique* Ausrian Government has just signified its assent to a proposal of the French Government for an International Commission to assemble in Paris in order to agree upon a common standard of measurement for all civilized nations. Already fifteen European powers have announced their willingness to take part in the Commission. Even England, which hitherto has been disinclined to depart from old customs, will be represented by the directors of the Observatories of Greenwich and Oxford. The French Government now only awaits replies from the United States, Brazil, and South American republics previously to call together the Commission.

PROPERTY IN ONTARIO.—From a Blue Book recently issued it appears that the number of acres assessed in Ontario in 1868, was 19,626,902; number of ratepayers 310,114; assessed value of real estate \$275,468,129; assessed value of personal property \$24,318,768; amount of taxable income \$6,578,923; amount of arrears of taxes \$1,750,059; liabilities of the corporations in debentures \$10,247,516; the principal amount due to municipal loan fund \$,845,878; other liabilities of the corporations amounted to \$1,125,638; The amount of revenue collected from taxes within the year, was \$3,151,086; The amount raised during the year by loan was \$239,665.

BANK OF ENGLAND.—The return for the week ending May 11th, gives the following results when compared with the previous week:

Res't	£3,118,380.. Increase.	£8,878
Public Deposits	8,881,433.. Increase.	248,827
Other Deposits	16,338,966.. Increase.	337,592

On the other side of the account:

Gov't Securities	£12,931,691.. Increase.	£34,411
Other	18,018,333.. Increase.	163,184
Notes unempl'd	10,290,985.. Increase.	264,455

The amount of notes in circulation is £23,444,745, being a decrease of £430,210; and the stock of bullion in both departments is £19,781,900, showing a decrease of £66,707 when compared with the preceding return.

ST. JOHN, N.B.—The stone building known as Chebucto Warehouse, corner of Bedford Row and Sackville street, part of the Reynolds estate, was sold at auction to Messrs. Payzant & King for \$10,120. The building on Sackville street, adjoining the corner, was sold to Messrs. Charles Graham & Co. for \$6,320. The property on Hollis street, known as Reynolds' Court, was sold to Mr. Henry Peters for \$6,280. It is said Mr. Peters contemplates the erection of a theatre on the property.—*St. John Globe*