

Floods in Mexico.

About 2,000 lives have been lost and it is stated about \$25,000,000 worth of property has been destroyed at Monterey, Mexico, by the sudden rise of the Santa Catarina river. The survivors are suffering greatly from lack of food and shelter. If Canada is free from such appalling disasters it is due to her forests. If the forests are allowed to be destroyed Canada will suffer as so many other countries do from alternate droughts and floods.

Lord Grey's Adventure.

His Excellency, the Governor General, was lost in the woods of Jervis Inlet, B. C., for five and a half hours on Saturday last, and suffered considerable hardship before he was found, nearly falling over a precipice in the darkness. There is considerable risk involved in these hunting expeditions in the Canadian forests, without guides. We congratulate His Excellency upon his escape.

Wheat Estimates.

The annual crop predictions of the Manitoba Free Press usually come pretty close to the mark. Yesterday it issued a report estimating the total wheat crop for the three Provinces at 118,270,000 bushels, the oat crop at 163,998,000 bushels, and barley at 30,542,000 bushels.

Neither too rapid a rush to market, or too decided a holding back of Canadian and American crops would be for the best interests of the farmers and the general business community.

New R. & O. Boat.

A party of Richelieu & Ontario directors with a number of guests left on Thursday for Detroit to witness the launching of the company's new steamer, the Rochester. The boat will be available for any of the routes on the line, but is primarily intended for use on the south side of Lake Ontario to connect Niagara Falls, Rochester, the Thousand Islands and Prescott.

The Late Sir Henry Strong.

We regret to have to record the death of Sir Henry Strong, formerly Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada, and since his retirement from that office, a member of the Judicial Committee of His Majesty's Privy Council.

British Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the United Kingdom has increased from £101,697,304 in 1894-5 to £151,578,295 in 1908-1909; and in the same period the expenditure has increased from £100,931,963 to £152,292,395. The income tax has increased from seven pence to a shilling in the pound. The cost of the army has increased from £17,900,000 to £26,840,000 the cost of the navy from £17,545,000 to £32,188,000 and the cost of the civil services from £18,915,000 to £32,338,000.

TRANSATLANTIC IMPRESSIONS.

Mr. Robert Bickerdike, M.P., Provincial Manager of the Western Assurance Company at Montreal, arrived in the city a few days ago, after spending three weeks in England, and two weeks in France and Belgium. He was accompanied by his two daughters. While in England, Mr. Bickerdike had the opportunity of viewing the Channel Fleet

and was greatly impressed by the spectacle it presented. The Imperial Defence Conference was in session during his stay in London, and Mr. Bickerdike states that public opinion rests assured that whatever is finally arranged as regards Canada's share in defence will be fully satisfactory to the Home Government. Referring to the Lloyd George budget, Mr. Bickerdike states that the popular impression seems to be that it is on the whole a good one.

Business on the other side is progressing on a good solid basis. The Western Assurance Company's business in London has been very favourable this year, and is making steady progress. General Manager Meikle and Senator Cox were among the Canadians whom Mr. Bickerdike met in London; both gentlemen will sail for Canada on the 6th instant.

FIRE AT TORONTO PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

Fire broke out in the west wing of the legislative buildings, Toronto, on the afternoon of the 1st instant, causing an insurance loss estimated at \$175,000. It is understood that no insurance was carried on contents of building.

The apartments in the building badly damaged or destroyed are the Library, Insurance Department, offices of the Registrar-General, offices of the Municipal Railway Board, Bureau of Labour, apartments of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and those of the King's Printer. The library was a most valuable one. It is stated that the insurance was allowed to lapse some time ago.

The following companies are interested:

Etna.....	\$ 8,000	North American.....	\$ 5,000
Alliance.....	24,000	North Brit. and Mer..	29,000
Anglo-American....	15,000	Northern.....	36,000
Atlas.....	31,000	Norwich Union.....	5,000
British-American....	10,000	Ottawa.....	5,000
Caledonia.....	23,000	Phoenix.....	35,000
Commercial Union...	22,500	Phoenix of Brooklyn.	8,000
Connecticut.....	6,000	Queen City.....	15,000
Equity.....	10,000	Queen.....	18,000
German-American...	4,000	Richm'd and Drum'd	10,000
Gore District.....	10,000	Rochester Ger.....	8,000
Guardian.....	24,000	Royal.....	50,000
Hartford.....	20,000	Scottish U. and N....	24,000
Home.....	8,000	Sovereign.....	16,000
Law, Union & Crown	5,000	Standard.....	5,000
Liv., Lon. & Globe...	30,000	Sun.....	24,000
London Assurance...	24,000	Union.....	20,000
London & Laues.....	32,500	Waterloo.....	6,000
London Mutual.....	20,000	Western.....	10,000
Manitoba.....	10,000	York.....	15,000
Mercantile.....	6,600	Yorkshire.....	10,000
Merchants.....	10,000		
Montreal, Canada...	10,000		
N. Y. Underwriters..	10,000		
			\$730,000

FIRE AT WINNIPEG, MAN.

A disastrous fire occurred on the 28th ult., in the six-storey warehouse of the McClary Manufacturing Company at Winnipeg. The following companies are interested:

Alliance.....	\$ 5,000	Yorkshire.....	\$ 5,000
British America.....	10,000	Manitoba.....	15,000
Home.....	5,750	Sovereign.....	3,000
Liv. & Lon. & Globe..	15,000	Ontario.....	2,000
Quebec.....	5,500	Central Canada Mfrs..	5,000
Royal.....	6,000	Eastern " " " "	5,000
Sun.....	5,000		
Union.....	14,250		
Total loss.			\$101,500