

ling house and store of Wm. Hand, with contents, were destroyed. Contents insured in the Beaver Mutual.

Dunville, March 7.—The barn of James Ferguson was burned to the ground, with contents; insured for \$630 in the Provincial.

—The annual meeting of the Ontario Mutual Fire Insurance Company will be held in London on the 14th March.

PROTECTION FROM FIRE IN TORONTO.—The late fire in the Northern Elevator has recalled attention to the desirability of making better provisions for the extinguishment of fire in the city. A meeting of the representatives of the insurance companies with the Committee on Fire, Water and Gas, was held in the Mayor's office on the 4th March, when a lengthened informal discussion was had in reference to the subject. It was proposed, on behalf of the Committee, that some alteration should be made in the location of the fire stations, so as to place them within easier distance of the outside limits of the eastern, central, and western sections of the city. It is proposed to place one on the south side of Queen street west, immediately east of Brock street, the site being a lot owned by Mr. John Strathy, which is offered for the sum of \$2,350. The second station to be on the north-east corner of Yonge and Grenville streets, on a lot owned by Mr. R. Vankoughnet, which is offered for \$2,400, or \$40 per foot. The third would be on the south side of Queen street east, between Yonge and Caroline streets, on a lot owned by J. McGee, and offered for \$25 per foot. The Court street engine and apparatus would be removed to this station. The Committee embodied the above suggestions in a report to the City Council. The report also contains the following:

"Your Committee, with a view to further increase the efficiency of the Fire Department, have considered the project of establishing a fire alarm telegraph in Toronto, and considering the large expenditure necessary for such purpose and for the purchase of new engine sites, &c., decided to consult the managers and agents of the several insurance companies doing business in the city, with a view to their contributing a share of such expenditure; accordingly the attendance of the representatives of insurance companies was invited to a meeting on the 4th inst., when they were informed of the intentions of the Committee in providing more effectual means for the prevention of fire, and the great necessity that existed for the construction of a fire alarm telegraph, the expense of which it was suggested should be equally and entirely borne by the insurance companies. A lengthy discussion on the subject took place, which resulted in the adoption of the following resolution by the managers and agents present, which your Committee submit for the information for the Council."

Moved by Mr. Heward, of the Royal, seconded by Mr. Harvey, of the Provincial, "That this meeting has heard with pleasure of the attention given by the Council to the protection of the citizens from fire. That the meeting approves of the proposed re-distribution of the fire engine stations. That it approves of the proposition to build a fire alarm telegraph, and that if some means can be devised by the Council by which greater security can be gained, the representatives of the insurance companies here present, will aid by their recommendations the carrying of these means into effect, provided all companies doing business in Toronto contribute in equitable proportions."

On the motion for the adoption of the report in the City Council on Monday night, Ald. Manning opposed the removal of the engine from Court street; he also thought the prices demanded for the lots offered too high. Ald. Sheard advocated imposing a tax on the insurance companies. After some further discussion, the consideration of the matter was laid over for one week.

INCREASED MORTALITY.—During the past two or three years, there has been a perceptible increase in the mortality among insured lives, and, during 1869, it has been more marked than at any other time. Nearly all the companies admit this to be the case, and some of them are startled at the unexpected demands made upon them through death claims. One life president recently remarked, in a playful (!) manner, that his company had not enough cash on hand to pay its losses, and had been compelled to borrow some. The reasons for this increase are not apparent, or, if apparent, are not satisfactory. The year just closed has been a year of plenty, a year of peace, a year of general health. Neither mental disturbances nor physical exposures have, on the average, been as severe as in many other years. Railroad and steamboat disasters have been on the increase, and this may furnish a partial, but only a partial, solution of the unwelcome facts above noticed. We alluded at some length, last month to the derelictions of examining physicians; and we believe that through the carelessness, the ignorance, or the connivance of these, a great number of unsound lives have been foisted upon the companies. Nor are the companies themselves wholly blameless. The mad competition of the past two years has infected them, and, in their eagerness to swell the volume of new business, they have not given the criticism demanded to this important point in their practice. It will not do for either companies or doctors to shift the responsibility upon the agents, and say that the pressure and misrepresentations came through them. Pressure and eloquence are expected from agents, in the hot pursuit of business. They are the motive power that drives the engine forward. The doctors and officers should be the balance wheels and brakes, to ensure its safety.—*Insurance Monitor.*

LIFE INSURANCE INVESTMENTS.—A late English paper illustrates very strikingly the worth of life insurance as an investment, by citing the case of a Bishop who, in 1821, insured his life in the Rock office for \$25,000, payable at death. In 1826 a bonus of \$1,000 was added to his policy, in 1833 a second bonus of \$3,575, in 1840 a third of \$3,375, and in 1847 a sum of \$4,165 was added. This brought up the total addition in the way of bonus to \$12,265 in 26 years, or at the rate of nearly \$500 a year. For this accumulated bonus of \$12,265 payable at death, the Bishop received in 1851 a cash payment of \$9,080. An arrangement was made with the office at the same time, by which all future payments of premiums on his part should cease, and he commuted these sums for a payment of \$5,325, thus realizing a net sum of \$3,755 and freedom from all further payments. In the year 1857 the bonus added to the policy was \$5,335, in 1861 it was \$5,685, and in 1868 a sum of \$6,705 making a total addition since 1851 of \$17,705; or, including the bonus purchased in 1851, of not less than \$29,835. On his death, which occurred a few years since, his representatives received from the Rock a sum of \$41,725.

PLATE GLASS INSURANCE.—A party representing himself as an agent of a Plate Glass Insurance Company has been brought to account by a firm in Montreal, from whom he received a premium. They say that no policy was ever issued, and demand back their money.

DOMINION TELEGRAPH CO.—Hon. John McMurrich, Toronto, President, and John T. Mackenzie, Vice-President of the Dominion Telegraph Company, met at Ottawa, Mr. A. Joseph, of Quebec, President, and Mr. S. B. Foote, Director of the Peoples Telegraph Company, with a view of working together from Ottawa and Montreal. A basis of action was agreed to, which will be submitted to their respective boards.

—A sale of damaged wheat took place at the Northern Elevator, Toronto, on the 7th; \$1,010 were realized for the whole lot.

Financial.

MONTREAL STOCK MARKET.

Reported by Robert Moat, Broker.

MONTREAL, March 9, 1870.

There has been a much improved demand for stocks during the past week and a fair amount of business was done, in many cases at a considerable advance on last week's quotations. The great abundance of money has brought buyers into the market, while the difficulty of reinvesting prevents holders from selling. A considerable portion of the purchases have been made by speculators in hopes of higher prices.

Banks.—There was a rapid advance in several of the banks stocks. Montreal sold at 160 up to 161½, and is now in demand at the latter price, holders asking 162½. Molson's advanced from 90 to 93 which is still offered. City sold at 87½, is now held for 90. Merchants' sold at 107, 107½, and 107½, holders now asking 108. Ontario was today asked for at 101½ with sellers at 101½. Du Peuple sold largely at 102½ which would still be paid. Eastern Townships is in demand at 102. Toronto, all that offered was readily taken at 130½. British is asked for at 106, with sellers at 106½. Jacques Cartier, Quebec, Nationale, Union and Commerce are in demand but none offering. There are buyers of Royal at 65, sellers asking 66½. Mechanics' is heavy at 87½ to 90.

Bonds.—There are no governments of any kind on market. Dominion Stock is inquired for at 108 to 108½. Large sales of Montreal City bonds continues to be made at 99½ to 100, they are still procurable at the latter price.

Sundries.—The principal movement was an advance in Richilieu and Montreal Telegraph, the former is asked for at 127½ with sellers at 130 and for the later 147½ is now offered, with no sellers under 150. Peoples Telegraph sold at 100. City Gas at 150. City Passenger Railway and Canadian Navigation are unchanged. There have been no transactions in Montreal Mining Shares pending the result of the annual meeting which takes place to-morrow.

Exchange.—On London has ruled dull at 8½ to 8¾.

TORONTO STOCK MARKET.

Reported by Pellatt & Osler, Brokers.

A good business has been transacted during the week; favorite stocks have been freely dealt in, and prices are in most cases well maintained.

Banks.—Montreal sold during the week at 159, 159½, 160, and 160½; sellers now asking 160½. British, none on this market, it would command 106. Large sales of Ontario have taken place at 101, 101½, and 101½; holders firm at latter rate. Toronto would command 130; none offering. Several sales of Royal Canadian during the week at 65 and 65½; the stock is offering at latter rate. Commerce is in good demand; none offering; last sales at 111½. Merchants' sold during the week at 107, at which rate there are buyers, but none offering. No Quebec on market; buyers offering 103½. Molson's has declined to 95, in consequence of only a two per cent. dividend having been declared for the half year. Transactions in City at 87 to 87½, buyers offering 86. Sellers of Du Peuple at 103; buyers offering 102. Buyers offering 106½ for Nationale; no stock on market. Jacques Cartier is enquired for at 108½; little doing. Sellers of Mechanics' asking 92, although some small transactions have taken place at 90½. Sellers of Union at 106½; buyers at 105½.

Debentures.—Both Canada "Fives" and "Sixes" are asked for at quoted rates; large sales of Dominion stock have been made at 108½ and 108¾. Considerable sales of Toronto at 91½; debentures having 10 or 12 years to run are asked for, but are not procurable. Good Counties are readily taken at 1 per cent. premium, but the amounts offering are very limited.