

Notes and Items.

The mail Steamer "Aorangi" is reported as having sailed from Vancouver on the 11th inst. for New Zealand and Sydney with a large consignment of Canadian flour. Our trade with Australia is improving.

The Railroad Rate War is certainly a good thing for the travelling public, however disastrous it may otherwise prove to be. The latest announcement comes from St. Paul, Minnesota, where the Soo road advertises a first class ticket from St. Paul to New York for \$14.

The Schenectady Locomotive Works have received an order for twelve locomotives for the Kinshu Railroad of Japan.

This is a duplicate of a similar order completed, and shipped last December, to the Government of Japan for service at Yokohama.

The News from Bombay of the spread of the plague in India is of startling character. Native merchants are leaving the city. The Government Gazette gives 2,067 deaths for the week ending February 12th, a rate of no less than 129.21 per thousand, and the highest point ever reached in the history of the city.

The epidemic has appeared in the Nizam's Dominions, and the position there, owing to the ignorance and war-like disposition of the people, is very grave. What with war, pestilence and famine, India is a sorely afflicted country.

The net earnings of the Grand Trunk, Canadian Pacific, Montreal and Toronto Street railways up to a recent date were as follows:—

G. T. R.

Week ending	1898.	1897.	Increase.
Feb. 14.....	\$415,437	\$355,884	\$59,553
21.....	411,644	387,692	23,952
28.....	451,587	405,526	46,061
Mar. 7.....	445,048	397,587	47,461
14.....	476,407	403,556	72,851

C. P. R.

Week ending	1898.	1897.	Increase.
Jan. 1-7.....	\$426,000	\$340,000	\$86,000
8-14.....	404,000	32,000	79,000
15-21.....	396,000	315,000	81,000
22-31.....	472,000	353,000	119,000
Feb. 1-7.....	385,000	332,009	53,000
8-14.....	375,000	323,000	52,000
15-21.....	351,000	310,000	41,000
22-28.....	377,000	306,000	71,000
Mar. 1-7.....	454,000	325,000	129,000
	\$3,640,000	\$3,929,000	\$7,100

MONTREAL STREET RY.

Week ending.	1898.	1897.	Increase.
Feb. 21.....	\$20,184	\$25,773	\$3,411
28.....	20,403	25,853	3,550
Mar. 7.....	26,294	22,364	3,929
14.....	25,656	21,800	3,856

TORONTO STREET RY.

Week ending.	1898.	1897.	Increase
Feb. 21.....	\$23,144	\$18,878	\$4,266
28.....	23,612	20,244	3,368
Mar. 7.....	21,796	18,184	3,612
14.....	20,747	17,752	2,995

The Prudential Assurance Company's growth is so remarkable that only figures and the simplest language are necessary to convey an idea of the business of a Company now celebrating its Jubilee by dividing £100,000 sterling among the staff upon a principle regulated by length of service, £50 being the maximum amount awarded in any single case.

The assets of the Prudential now amount to £30,438,377, and increase of over three millions sterling in one year. The total number of policies in force at the close of 1897 was 12,546,132 and the premiums received during the year £2,774,264. Who shall call the British workman improvident?

Among the Bills before Parliament is one to amend the law respecting holidays.

The Bill is introduced by Mr. Penny, and contains the following clauses:—

1. Polling day in an election of a member to serve in the House of Commons shall be observed as a holiday in the electoral district where the election takes place.

2. No employee in any factory, workshop, or store, in such electoral district shall be obliged to attend to his duties as such employee on such polling day.

3. In the case of a general election of members to serve in the House of Commons, polling day shall be a bank holiday.

Following is a list of Companies interested in the recent big fire on Front street, Toronto, with amounts carried by each.

COMPANY.	On Currie's Stock 27 Front Street E.	On Howland's Stock 29 Front Street E.	On Lar-kin's Stock 28 Front Street E.	On Blain's Stock 21 Front Street E.
	Insurance.	Insurance.	Insurance.	Insurance.
Aetna.....	\$3,000			
Alliance.....				
Atlas.....	12,000			\$5,000
British America.....	500			
Caledonian.....		\$5,000		
Commercial Union.....	500	1,200	\$2,000	5,000
Economical.....		5,000		
Fire Ins. Exchange.....				5,000
Gore District.....				5,000
Guardian.....	4,30			
Hartford.....		5,000		
Hand-in-Hand.....				10,000
Keystone.....	1,500			
Lancashire.....	16,000			
Liverpool & Lon. & Globe.....	8,100			5,000
London & Lancashire.....	1,200			
London Assurance.....	20,200			
Manchester.....	5,00		8,000	
Mercantile.....	6,000			
Millers & Mfns.....				5,000
North British & Mercantile.....	7,600			
Norwich Union.....	5,400		2,000	
North America.....	6,000			5,000
National of Ireland.....	9,000			
Phoenix of Brooklyn.....	4,000			10,000
Phoenix of Hartford.....	6,000			5,000
Phoenix of London.....	9,000			5,000
Quebec.....	2,700	5,000		5,000
Queen.....	300	5,000		
Queen City.....		5,000		10,000
Royal.....	7,900			
Scottish Union and National.....				5,000
Sun.....	2,000			5,000
Union.....	6,000			5,000
Western.....	20,000		5,000	
	\$163,400	\$31,200	\$17,500	\$90,000
	Loss about 50 p. c.	Slightly damaged,	Loss about 50 p. c.	Slight smoke damage,

The Union carried \$25,000 on buildings; loss estimated at \$11,000