

MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY COMPANY.

The returns of the above company for last month show a considerable increase in passenger receipts, doubtless owing to the weather conditions favouring the traffic. The gross earnings in the month were \$173,901, against \$160,611 in May 1901, an increase of \$13,290. The miscellaneous earnings were also more by \$3,834, which raised the month's increase to \$17,124. The operating expenses were \$3,985 less than in May, 1901, so that if this item is added to increased earnings there is an increase shown in the net earnings of \$21,110 over same month last year. The fixed charges, however, were \$7,039 in excess of same period last year, which reduced the surplus for the month to \$14,070. Taking the 8 months since October 1st 1901, the surplus is \$366,373, against \$354,416 in 1900, the increase being \$11,956, all of which is attributable to the results of the business last month.

The Street Railway Company is to be commended for the improved cars it is introducing. They are the most commodious and pleasant ever used, and those having a smokers' section are highly popular with ladies and others who do not smoke or who dislike being incensed against their will by that of others.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

In last week's issue of THE CHRONICLE, in the last paragraph of the review of the annual report, it was inadvertently stated that Mr. Simpson would shortly meet the agents of the Company. It should have read the *managers* of the Company on this continent.

FIRE AT GALT, ONT.

A fire occurred at the saw factory of Messrs. Shurley & Dietterichs, Galt., on the 31st inst.

The factory was completely destroyed. The loss on the building, machinery and contents will amount to nearly \$100,000. It is stated that there was only \$26,000 insurance carried by the following non-tariff companies: Economical, Anglo-American, Wellington and Merchant.

FIRE AT ST. HILAIRE, QUE.

The Roman Catholic institute, known as Les Soeurs Gadbois, was totally destroyed by fire on the 23rd inst. The insurance was \$14,000 on building and \$1,000 on contents, carried by the Royal; total loss.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The trouble between the Toronto Street Railway Company and its conductors and motormen seems to be rather in the armistice stage than settlement. The men do not realize the serious nature of their action nor the consequences it is likely to entail. By adding a large sum to the annual expenditure of the Company they deprive the capital invested in the enterprise of a portion of its reasonable returns, and place the capital in all enterprises of the same nature in a precarious position by which extensive improvements are hindered and additional conveniences prevented from being granted to the public. To paralyze a street car service in any city is a blow at the public. To thousands of the artisan class and others dependent upon the wages of industry it is most injurious to be deprived of their ordinary facilities for reaching their places of work in due time. Hundreds indeed are liable to lose their positions by incapacity to reach the factory, store or office for the day's duties, and to many it is a positive cruelty to be left without facilities for reaching home after work. Those engaged in such a service ought to be compelled by statute to give two or three months notice before quitting their posts without the consent of the Company's manager. For a whole body of railway employees *en masse* to abandon their work suddenly is an outrage on the public, and in defending them and protecting the Company's interests the managers of a street railway company will have public sympathy and support.

The following Canadians have been honoured by the King:—

To be Knight Commanders of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George: Hon. Daniel Hunter Macmillan, lieutenant-governor of Manitoba; Hon. Frederick William Borden, minister of militia and defence; Hon. William Mulock, postmaster-general.

To be Companions of the most distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George: Lieut.-Col. Frederick White, comptroller Northwest Mounted Police; Lieut.-Col. Percy Sherwood, commissioner Dominion Police; Robert Harris, esquire, president Royal Canadian Academy.

To be Knights Bachelors: Hon. Henri Elzéar Taschereau, Puisné Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada; Hon. Robert Boak, president of the Legislative Council of Nova Scotia; and Gilbert Parker, the Canadian novelist, has been knighted.