

tion, costly advertisements, and so forth, that their business, though small, is very sound and choice." How earnestly we wish that such sentiments prevailed in the United States.—*Chicago Spectator.*

—A fire inquest was held the village of Douglas, Ont., in reference to the burning of the store of Alexander Todd, who is going through the Insolvent Court. The inquest was held at the instance of the Gore District Mutual Insurance Company but nothing of consequence was elicited.

TORONTO FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The annual report of Mr. Ashfield, the Chief Engineer of the Fire Brigade, for 1868, states that "the Fire Department was called out to fires 79 times; there were 56 fires and 26 false alarms. The total loss on buildings destroyed or damaged was \$25,382, and the insurance on these \$86,100. The total loss on merchandize, furniture, etc., was \$20,596, and the insurance \$122,800. The amount of losses not covered by insurance included in the foregoing was, on buildings, \$3,713; on merchandize, etc., \$2,810. The Engineer observes that the amounts paid by the insurance companies on the above losses were in several instances far more than the real amount of loss. There were 28 brick buildings damaged; none destroyed; 47 frame buildings were damaged, and 62 destroyed. The causes of fires were: Cause not known or satisfactorily accounted for, 16; incendiary, 9; from lighted gas, 6; careless about stoves, etc., 5; chimneys on fire, 4; boiling over of chemicals, pitch, etc., 4; tobacco smoking, 3; hot ashes placed in or near wood, 2; lighted candles, 1; defective flue, 1; children playing with lucifer matches, 1; explosion of heavy metal casting, 1; fire crackers thrown into yard, 1; burning out bees' nests, 1; total, 56.

The Engineer complains of the water supply and says there has been no improvement since the date of his last annual report. He objects to the shutting off of the water on Tuesdays and Fridays, as when it is off should a fire occur considerable delay must ensue before a supply could be obtained for the engines. He mentions an instance where this occurred in December last, and a delay of eleven minutes was incurred. A large amount of property was in consequence destroyed. In August last a large amount of property on Adelaide street was destroyed through an insufficient supply of water at a hydrant belonging to the Water Company. Mr. Ashfield thinks the present annual charge of \$4,524 excessive for the supply of water; the amount required annually is three quarters of a million gallons, but if a million gallons were used the cost would then be \$4.50 for every 1,000 gallons, which it is said other consumers get for twenty cents.

A large portion of the city deriving no advantage whatever from the Water Works, the City Councils of former years, made appropriations for the construction of water tanks in various parts of the city far distant from any supply of water for extinguishing fire. There are now sixteen of these tanks each of which will contain about 14,000 gallons, and will afford a good supply of water to a steam engine, doing ordinary fire work, for about one hour and a half. Several of these tanks were in use for extinguishing fires during the past year—and in every instance afforded a sufficient supply for the purpose.

Mr. Ashfield then refers to the location of these tanks, and says:—

For the protection of the valuable buildings and the vast amount of property on Front street, and the south of it, and as far north as to King street, in case of accident to the Water Works; it is again respectfully recommended that a small Tank with feeder—similar to that on Bay street, be placed on each of the principal streets leading to the Bay, and as near to Front street as possible. These Tanks would always be ready with an unlimited supply of water, and with the Steam Fire

Engines, would be a means of protection to property within a distance of one-fourth of a mile from each. Three of these Tanks, one on Yonge street, one on Church street, and one on the street East or West of the City Hall, are most urgently required, and could all be completed for about one thousand dollars.

The apparatus of the fire department consists of 3 Steam Fire Engines; 2 Large Hose Carts, and one small one; 1 Hook and Ladder Truck with Ladders, Hooks and Axes; 2,350 feet of good Rubber Hose; 800 feet of middling Rubber Hose; 600 feet of indifferent Rubber Hose; 2 waggons for hauling fuel, &c. &c.

The Fire Department consists of one Chief Engineer and one Assistant Engineer, two engineers and two firemen of steam engines, one caretaker of hose, &c., and one Fire Company of thirty four men, including one buglar, in all forty-one men, exclusive of supernumeraries. The Fire Company is told off into three sections of eleven to each—ten men and a foreman. Sections Nos. 1 and 2 are branch and hose men, section No. 3 are hook and ladder men, and to each section are appointed three supernumerary members.

The total expenses of the fire department in 1868 were \$12,547.37. In reference to a better system of fire alarm, the Engineer says:—The Automatic Telegraph Fire Alarm, respecting which a communication from Messrs. Gamewell & Co. was recently laid before the Council, is deserving of the best and most serious consideration as soon as possible. It is probable that with that system of fire alarm in operation, the two steam engines at present in ordinary use would be more effective for the protection of property in parts of the city distant from the engine stations, than four engines would be without it. With the telegraph in operation, several of the expenses connected with the alarm bells at present in use, could be dispensed with.

Financial.

TORONTO STOCK MARKET.

(Reported by Pellatt & Osler, Brokers.)

A fair business was done during the week. Building Society stock, debentures and mortgages have been freely dealt in.

Bank Stock.—The business done in the shares of the various banks was, with one or two exceptions, very limited. Montreal sold at 144, 144½ and 145; the market closed with sellers at 145½ and buyers at 145. Sales of British were made at 105, at which rate there are buyers. No sellers of Toronto under 122, and buyers at 121. Royal Canadian has been largely dealt in; there were sales in the early part of the week at 75 and 76; buyers have now advanced to 77½, but there is very little stock on the market under 80. Small sales of Commerce were made at 102½ and 102¾; there is some inquiry for the stock at the former rate. Gore is offered at 41 without buyers. Merchants' has sold at 107½ and 108, but declined slightly, closing with no buyers over 107½. Quebec is firm and in demand at 101½, with no sellers under 102. There are buyers and sellers of Molson's at 109 and 110 respectively. City closed rather heavy at 102½ and 102¾. Du Peuple is in fair demand at 108; little in market. Buyers offer 107½ for Nationale; none offering. Small sales of Jacques Cartier occurred at 109 and 109½; it is offered at the latter price.

Debentures.—Government securities are in good demand; Canada currency and sterling six per cents are asked for at 103; five per cents are nominal at 93 and 94½. Dominion stock has been sold at 106½, and Dominion bonds at 105½. There have been no Toronto debentures on the market for some time; they would be readily taken to pay 6½ per cent. County have been sold to some extent at 99 to 100. There is a slight tendency to lower rates.

Sundries.—Canada Permanent Building Society has been freely dealt in at 125½ to 126; there are still buyers at the latter rate. Sales of Western Canada Building Society were made at 120½, 120½, 121 and 121½. Freehold B. S. sold at 110½ and 111; there are now buyers at 111. Buyers offer 132½ for Montreal Telegraph, with sellers at 133½. Small sales of Canada Landed Credit occurred at 78 and 79; sellers generally ask 80. City Gas is enquired for at 108 and 108½, at which latter rate there have been small sales. British-America Assurance is asked for at 55; there are sellers to a limited extent at 56. Mortgages have been freely offered at 8 and 8½ per cent on first class farm and city property. Money continues in demand at advanced rates.

TORONTO CITY FINANCES.

At a meeting of the City Council on Monday last the Chamberlain submitted a statement showing the receipts and expenditures of the Corporation of Toronto for 1868.

The total amount of revenue received for the year, including the sum of \$51,553.66, which was in bank and on hand, on the first of Jan., 1868, was, \$803,921.41. The amount of payments for the year was \$692,208.84, which, with cash in bank and on hand, 31st December, viz: \$111,712.57, amounts to \$803,921.41.

Statement of the floating liabilities and assets of the Corporation of the City of Toronto for the financial year ending 31st December, 1868:

LIABILITIES.—Due to sundry special accounts being balances at credit of said accounts 31st Dec. 1868: Debentures due and not presented for payment, \$14,567.50; sinking fund accounts, \$178,678.88; police reserve fund, \$667.73; private drains account, \$429.01; common school account, \$5,924.00; grammar school account, \$827.00; City Registry Office building, \$5,000.00; public walks and gardens fund, \$234.48; local improvement sewers, \$25.78; western market fund, \$3,413.62; street watering accounts, \$594.22. Total—\$210,362.11.

Due to the following accounts being balances at credit of said accounts required to meet outstanding claims: Discount on debentures undisposed of, \$8,922.00; interest on debentures due 1st January, 1869, \$15,521.66; Municipal salaries, \$3,094.53; gas supply, \$5,386.04; water supply, \$2,358.48; Board of Health, \$159.81; advertising, \$12.46; consolidation city by-laws, \$1,672.50; street repairs, \$1,477.15; special macadamizing, \$12,414.00; printing, \$471.58; stationery, 1,012.38; water tanks, \$277.66; election expenses, \$231.15; charitable grants, \$1,757.00; County York rent of Court-house, \$700.00.—Total, \$55,469.00. Due to Bank of Toronto for notes under discount not yet matured, \$111,000.00.—Total liabilities on account of year, 1868, \$376,831.00.

ASSETS.—Due from following sources: Debentures to be negotiated on account of Sinking Fund, \$58,290.03; rentals due, \$13,500; market fees, \$2,625.67; maintenance of county prisoners, \$556.80; Province of Ontario on account of gaol expenditure, \$2,500; bills receivable, \$262.65; taxes of 1868 uncollected, \$225,108.25, less probable losses and arrearages, \$28,108.45—\$196,000; public buildings account, amount over expenditure in 1868, \$365.97; gaol and industrial farm, amount over expenditure in 1868, \$427.50.

Cash on hand and in bank 31st Dec. 1868.—Bank of Toronto, general account, \$39,233.64; Bank of Toronto, Sinking Fund account, \$69,104.93; Bosanquet, Salt & Co., Sinking Fund account, \$62.80; Bosanquet, Salt & Co. general account, \$2,380.55; on hand, as per cash book, \$930.85.—Total, \$111,712.57. Total amount of assets, \$386,241.19. Surplus assets over liabilities, \$10,539.92.

The statement of the financial results of the year showing a surplus of \$10,534.06, cannot fail to be satisfactory to the Council. This surplus