

fire hazard can be easier measured than the life hazard because with the fire insurance compiler the hazard remains stationary it does not change into more hazardous groups from year to year, the final loss need not be considered. It has also been shown that the partial loss can be accounted for in the statistics just the same as the total loss.

This treatise, which appears in the "Coast Review," opens a new path for further inquiry, for earnest study, for serious thought.

#### QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1530.—H. C., Hartford, Conn.—Lake of the Woods Preferred pays 7 p.c. per annum in quarterly instalments. Laurentide Paper Preferred 7 p.c. also quarterly. United States Steel preferred 7 p.c. also quarterly. Lake of the Woods selling around 112. Laurentide about 110, and United States Steel 109 to 110.

The other industrials you ask about are unlisted American stocks are not known here. We will, however, endeavour to procure some information on them.

1531.—H. J. W., Ottawa.—Commencing on Monday the 10th inst., the sessions of the Montreal Stock Exchange will be as follows:—10 a.m., to 12.45 p.m., and 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. daily, except Saturday. Saturday session 10 a.m., to 12 noon.

#### ATLAS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Atlas Assurance Company moved into its new offices in the Metropolitan Building, 179 St. James in this city on the 12th inst. The company has leased the first floor, which is large and commodious besides being well lighted. The fittings are in excellent taste and the offices altogether are very conveniently laid out, are situated in a most prominent position, and well adopted for the Canadian head offices.

#### CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

The usual bi-monthly meeting of the C. F. U. A. was held in Toronto this week. Nearly all the Montreal members attended the meeting.

#### BANK DIVIDENDS

Dividends with dates of payments are announced as follows:

Bank of Montreal, Quarterly	2½ p.c., 1st March.
Imperial bank	2½ p.c. "
Bank of Hamilton	2½ p.c. "
Bank of Hochelaga	1½ p.c. "
Sovereign bank	1½ p.c., 16th February.
Union bank of Halifax, ½ year, 4 p.c.	28th February.
Bank of British North America, ½ year, 3 p.c.	5th April.

#### PROMINENT TOPICS.

**MAYOR EKERS' INAUGURAL.**—On the 12th inst. Mr. Ekers, the newly elected Mayor of Montreal, was installed as customary. There was a very large attendance of citizens. The Mayor delivered an Address in which the financial and other business affairs of the city were discussed. He spoke of Montreal being classed amongst cities whose finances are in a healthy condition. No addition has been made to the funded debt beyond the percentage on annual increase of the taxable values necessary to keep pace with the natural growth of the city and which is limited to \$300,000 a year, conditioned also on the proviso that, this amount does not exceed 10 per cent. of such increase. As a matter of fact, it was less than 6½ per cent. last year. The rates for loans was more favourable than ever before. He affirmed that the citizens here have to pay less for assessment and water combined than other cities of the size and the cost of street paving and sidewalks which, in this city, is paid out of the ordinary revenue, is, in other cities charged against the proprietors.

At the same time, the Mayor declared that our water rates were higher than elsewhere.

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**THE MAYOR ON THE GAS QUESTION.**—Mayor Ekers is desirous of this question being taken up and a solution arrived at with the least possible delay. Negotiations should be at once entered into with the Light, Heat & Power Co., to secure the best terms attainable.

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**THE CONDUIT AND OTHER QUESTIONS.**—The Mayor desires prompt attention given by the Council to the underground conduit's question, so as to have the poles and wires removed from the streets. He favours the annexation of all the municipalities on the Island, and a redistribution, or re-arrangement of the wards so as to do away with the anomaly of some having 600 or 700 voters and others 7,000 to 8,000. The filtering of water he urged for consideration.

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**THE MAYOR ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.**—Although much improved in past few years he urges the Council to put the fire department in a state of thorough efficiency and remove an alleged reason for maintaining fire insurance rates.

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**USELESS DISCUSSIONS CONDEMNED.**—The Mayor informed the Council that the rule restricting speeches to a given length of time and forbidding a member to speak twice on the same question, without leave of the Council, ought to be adhered to and asked the aldermen to assist the Mayor in enforcing these rules. He suggested also that reports of committees be handed to the city clerk before 10 a.m., on the day they are to be considered, so as to give members of the Council an opportunity of forming an intelligent judgment thereon. The Mayor intimated his intention to have the by-laws enforced—or repealed. In this he has an opportunity of doing a much-needed service, as, practically, several by-laws are wholly ignored by the authorities and the citizens.

After the Mayor's Address several aldermen extended their congratulations and expressed approval of his suggestions and programme.