

INCENDIARY FIRES IN MONTREAL NINETY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

From a bound volume of The Montreal Herald dated November 4th, 1820, on file in THE CHRONICLE library, we publish the following notice. A similar notice was published frequently in different issues of The Herald in 1821, and is an indication that persons found guilty of incendiarism were severely punished, if not hanged, when convicted. Such crimes, we believe, are of much more frequent occurrence in Canada at the present time than they were nearly one hundred years ago, but present day efforts when made, to have the criminals convicted do not appear to cause any diminution of the crime, although other crimes, such as murder are dealt with quite as effectively as in 1820. Why not also the incendiary who by his act is a dangerous pest in any community?

REWARD OF £1,000.

The Agents of the PHOENIX FIRE OFFICE, having received information that leads them to believe, that the late Fires in the City and Suburbs of Montreal, have not been the effect of accident, but the nefarious act of some Incendiaries;—BE IT KNOWN that they, the said agents, on behalf of the PHOENIX FIRE OFFICE, do hereby offer a REWARD of

ONE THOUSAND POUNDS.

To any Person or Persons, who will give such information to them, or at the POLICE OFFICE, as will convict the Principal Offender, which sum the said Agents will pay upon such conviction.

GEORGE GARDEN } Agents
GEORGE AULDJO } Phoenix Fire Office.

By authority of HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR IN CHIEF,

A FREE PARDON.

is hereby offered and will be granted to any persons who may give information against the Principal Incendiary or Incendiaries, alluded to in the above advertisement.

Dated at Montreal, the 15th day of September, 1820.

DAVID ROSS, K.C.,
Acting Attorney General.

The Phoenix Fire Office is known to-day as The Phoenix Assurance Co., Limited., of London, England, and has been operating in Canada about 110 years.

DECREASED FIRE LOSSES DUE TO RAINFALL.

In the opinion of the American Exchange and Review, the unusual rainfall this summer has had most to do with the exceptional reduction in the amount of the fire waste noted in the statistical records, a reduction which for the first eight months of the year is about 50 million dollars in comparison with the corresponding period of 1914. Any elation on the part of underwriters that a permanent change for the better has taken place and that a consequent reduction in rates may be made with impunity is not wise judgment, says our contemporary, as under normal conditions a return to previous figures may confidently be expected.

There are 28 local associations in good standing with the Canadian Association of Life Underwriters, representing a membership of 790.

INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND INCOME TAX.

It is well known that, for many years, British income tax law has allowed deductions of the amount paid in insurance premiums in making assessments of income for the purposes of this tax. The limit of this deduction has been hitherto one-sixth of the total income. Owing to the starting of short-term endowment schemes for the purpose of evading the super-tax, the regulations regarding these deductions have been somewhat tightened by the Finance Act of 1915. It appears from an explanation given by the Post Magazine that as matters now stand the maximum amount of deduction which can be claimed is limited to (1) one-sixth of the taxable income, and (2) the premiums in respect of which rebate is allowed must not exceed (a) seven per cent. of the actual capital sum assured, if the policy secures a capital sum on death (whether in conjunction with any other benefit or not) or (b) £100 in all, if they are payable to secure any other benefit.

The Post Magazine suggests that the arbitrary percentage limit is likely to operate harshly in certain cases, and that assurances effected late in life, single premium policies and term premium policies might have received more consideration. From the companies' point of view, the Post Magazine adds, the short-term endowment schemes aimed at by the new legislation yielded little or no profit and caused much trouble, so that there will be few regrets if the effect of the new provisions is to discourage them.

It is also noted that when an income is partly earned and partly unearned *i. e.*, received from investments, etc. the latter being subject to a much higher rate of tax, that the insurance premium deduction is made from earned income and not from unearned income, the effect being, of course, to give the State larger returns than would otherwise be the case. If the premiums exceed the earned income any balance goes to reduce the unearned portion.

MILLERS NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Millers National Insurance Company, established in 1869 with Head Office at Chicago has recently obtained a Dominion License, and has made the necessary deposit at Ottawa. The Company's chief agency in Canada is located in Winnipeg, and Mr. George H. Williams of Winnipeg has been appointed chief agent. The Company is in excellent repute and has accumulated a considerable volume of first class assets.

INSURANCE JOURNALS.

As a class they occupy advance ground and stand for progress and sound principles in the great business of insurance, (the Pacific Mutual News says). Their influence, and it has been no small factor, has been lined up in support of sane legislation and wise reforms. They have combated wrong principles in the practice of the companies as well as in legislative halls. This certainly entitles them to the support of agents, and companies as well, in whatever way it can be consistently given.

The Bank of England yesterday continued its official rate of discount at 5 per cent.