

Mr. Kerr wished to see a more detailed settlement of the assets than had been presented. He believed the Bank had violated its charter by dealing so largely in real estate, by which means the working-energies of the Bank had been crippled and brought to its present position. The mortgages instead of being permitted to lie over, should have been made available, and the property converted into a working medium. From the returns to the Legislature from 1852 to 1862 it would appear that the position of the Bank was good, when in reality amounts were put in as assets which were utterly worthless. The stockholders had never had an opportunity of seeing how the returns were made up, and had no information of the real situation of things. In 1862 Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Sancton made oath to the Legislature, that the stock was full, and the assets all good, and yet before the annual meeting in May following, the Directors struck off £20,000 from the assets for which they gave no reason, and the stockholders could gain no information on the matter. With regard to the matter between him and Mr. Jack, he would now say that, although Mr. Jack had stated in the papers that he was not liable for the case he lost, yet that gentlemen had told Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Seely and himself, that Mr. Hazen was liable for that amount, and yet that £500 had been put into the bad debt list. The Bank, moreover, had in 1861 broken their own bye-laws, in handing £1500 over the counter to Mr. John Morrison the Bank taking mortgage on his Mill property at Fredericton, on which the Central Bank had a previous mortgage of £3500.

Mr. Parks explained that when he went to the Board, Mr. Morrison owed the Bank £25,000, all of which by great labors he had got covered, and then he told Mr. Morrison that all future accommodation must be done through the Board. He got leave of absence to go to Canada, and while he was gone the Board handed Morrison £1000.

Mr. Milligan spoke at some length on the departures from the terms of the Charter, and on the liability of the Directors as Trustees for the Stockholders.

Messrs. Reed and Jarvis were approved of to fill the vacancies at the Board, and the further consideration of the report was postponed till the second Tuesday in March.

—A meeting of the subscribers for stock in the Port Whitty and Port Perry Railway Company will be held in Whitty on the 27th of January, for the purpose of electing directors.

—The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Nova Scotia Marine Insurance Company will be held on the 18th January.

**Insurance.**

**FIRE RECORD.**—Petrolia, Jan. 8.—A fire occurred here by which three houses were burned to the ground. That in which the fire originated belonged to Mr. Lloyd, and was occupied by Sidney Walters. It appears that Mrs. Walters made a fire in the stove after dinner, and went to a neighbor's house, intending to stay a short time; and she was not long gone when the fire was discovered. The fire doubtless originated from the stove, but in what way, no one can tell, for when the door was burst open, the whole house was in flames. Mr. Walters and his family lost all their clothing except what they had on, and all their furniture; also \$300 in bills. Mr. W. rushed in through the flames, and brought out a small trunk containing \$100 in gold and silver; and went back and brought out the stand, in the drawer of which was deposited the \$300 in bills; but by this time the top of the stand was burned through, and the money destroyed. Mr. Lloyd, the owner of the house, lost all his clothing; \$30 in cash; and a gold watch worth about \$50. Of

the other two houses burned, one belonged to W. H. McGarvey, and was occupied by Michael Parker, but before the fire communicated to it, all the furniture, &c., was removed. The other house belonged to Mr. Wm. Dundas, of Enniskillen, and was occupied by Mr. John Hall, and its contents were likewise saved before the building itself caught fire. The loss, as far as the buildings are concerned, is complete, none of them having been insured; nor was their any insurance on any portion of Mr. Walters' or Mr. Lloyd's goods.

Windsor, July 2.—A fire broke out in a stable in the east end of the town, owned by Henry Offitt and was burned to the ground, with all its contents, including four horses. Loss \$700; insured for \$500. The wind was blowing quite fresh at the time, and there being no water to supply the engine, the fire soon communicated to the building owned by P. T. Worthington, of London, and occupied by Rev. Hugh Johnston, and it being of wood, was soon so far in flames as to preclude any hope of saving it. Mr. Johnston lost a great deal of his clothing and many of his books by theft, and much of his furniture was badly damaged by hasty removal. The most of the loss will, however, be made good by the insurance on it. The house was fully insured. The cause of the fire is involved in mystery.

Egremont, Co. Grey, Dec. 31.—The store and dwelling house owned by John Hunt; and occupied by Mrs. Jane Hunt, on the 14th concession of Egremont, was destroyed by fire. How the fire originated is not known. The total loss in goods, furniture, &c., will be about \$1,500, and includes \$75 in cash, which was in one of the drawers. No insurance.

St. John, N. B.—Store of P. Connolly, on King street consumed, no particulars.

London, Jan. 7.—About eleven o'clock on Wednesday night a fire broke out in the tailors' department of Finlayson and Co.'s dry goods and clothing store, which threatened to destroy the principal part of the brick block on Dundas street, between Talbot and Richmond streets, the rear portions of the buildings where the fire originated being principally old wooden structures. By great exertions on the part of the fire brigade the fire was almost entirely confined to the premises which it broke out. The whole interior of Finlayson's including the stock is destroyed. The loss on stock is estimated at \$23,000, \$5,000 to \$8,000 saved, insured for \$16,000—\$6,000 in the London Assurance; \$2,500 in the Etina, of Hartford; \$2,500 in the North British Mercantile; \$5,000 in the Northern, of England. The store is owned by Mr. D. Stirling, of Hamilton, and is fully insured. The adjoining store, occupied by Westlake, dry goods, received considerable damage by smoke and water. The loss is fully covered by an insurance settled for \$1,000. Mr. Conachie's dry goods store on the other side also suffered loss through removal. It is insured and settled for \$60.

Durham, Ont. Dec. 26.—The Carding Mill, Woollen Factory and Stockhouse, belonging to Peter Patterson, was destroyed by fire. Loss estimated at about \$15,000. About \$5,000 worth of cloth was destroyed, a portion of which belonged to customers, who will sadly miss the material intended for family wear. Insurance \$2,000.

Montreal, Jan. 11th.—A fire broke out in a building situated on Wellington street, occupied as a farmers' tavern, by A. Ryan. The building is a brick one, covered with wood. One of the inmates, a German, who was sleeping in the upper story, was at one time in great danger, but through the praiseworthy exertions of Mr. Alfred Perry and the firemen, he was rescued and taken to the General Hospital in an insensible condition where he now lies in a very low state. The other inmates narrowly escaped uninjured. The loss on the building is about \$5,000, insured in the Liverpool and London; on the contents about \$1400, insured in the Royal.

Smithtown, King's Co., N. B., Dec. 31.—The Carding, Fulling and Dyeing Mills of J. McC.

Snow, were destroyed by fire. There was no insurance on the Mills, and Mr. Snow lost his books and papers, which were in his desk in the Mill at the time. A large quantity of Wool and Woollen Goods were also destroyed.

Lakelet, Co. Huron, Ont.—The house of Peter Nelény was burned down. The furniture was all saved. There was no insurance on the house, which was owned by R. Young.

Buctouche, N. B.—The dwelling-house and store of Mr. Alex. Johnson and the dwelling-house and store of Mr. John Keswick, both of Buctouche, were destroyed. The house of Mr. Keswick, in which the fire broke out was insured; Mr. Johnson was not insured, but he saved all his household effects.

Cobourg, January.—A fire occurred at Cobourg Station, G. T. R., by which about 400 cords of wood were burnt, the property of the railway company. A large steam sawing machine, owned by C. J. Stapling, of Belleville, and which cost about \$1,400, was almost completely destroyed.

Waterford, Jan. 12.—Last evening the barn and its contents belonging to Dr. Bowly was consumed. The fire was discovered about 8 P. M., and spread so rapidly that the effort to save anything was impossible. Four horses and two cows were in the building destroyed, together with a large amount of wheat. Loss about \$2,500; partially covered by an insurance of \$1,000 in the Waterloo Insurance Company.

**FIRES IN HALIFAX.**—There have been during the year 1868, in Halifax and vicinity, 49 fires and alarms, most of which have happened at night or between the hours of 6 p. m. and 6 a. m.

No. of actual fires in Halifax.....	26
do. do. Dartmouth.....	1 27
No. of alarms in Halifax.....	21
do. do. Dartmouth.....	1 22
Total.....	49

**THE INTERNATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE.**—The case of the International Life Assurance Society came before the Equity Courts of Wednesday, in a suit under a petition filed by a Mr. White, the holder of eighty-five shares, with £7 each paid, which, it appears from the evidence, he bought at an auction sale in Lothbury for the nominal sum of £11. The case was argued at great length, and Dr. Symes, the chairman of the International, and Mr. Shrubbs, manager of the Hercules, were examined *vis a vis*, before the court with a view of proving the inability of the Hercules to take over the transfer. The evidence went to show that the transfer was a valid one, and that the Hercules was a good and responsible company. It appeared also that £105,000 of mortgages, Government securities and other assets had been absolutely transferred to the Hercules in July last, and that about £15,000 in money had also been paid to them. It also appeared that more than 1,700 policyholders out of the 2,000 or thereabouts had actually accepted the Hercules in the place of the International, and had their policies transferred by endorsement or exchange. The Vice Chancellor gave judgment, the effect of which went to show that the petition must be dismissed unless a suit could be instituted by bill to assert the validity of the transfer-deed, which appeared from the tenor of his honor's remarks to be next to impossible.—*Investors' Guardian*.

**TAXATION ON INSURANCE IN NOVA SCOTIA.**—A correspondent writes to a Halifax paper as follows:—By the laws of our Province, we very properly provided, for the public security, that every company is obliged to make an annual return the first of each year, showing the amount of property insured—the gross amount of premiums charged thereon—with the net profit of the business for the year just finished; and on this return the City Assessor makes up his annual assessment. Knowing there was a good deal of dissatisfaction at the manner in which this w. ole some law had been disregarded, I have taken th