

INSURANCE OF WAREHOUSE COMMODITIES.—The N. Y. "Commercial Bulletin" reports that the Board of Trade, Chicago, has passed a resolution to the effect that warehouse receipts cannot pass from seller to buyer unless the commodity covered by the receipt is covered by "proper insurance." The rule was the outcome of recent packing-house fires, which developed large amounts of doubtful insurance. Without regard to the soundness of the rule the question has arisen as to whose business it shall be to determine the quality of the insurance. The wide difference of opinion on this point, among the best insurance men, and with plenty of time to form an opinion, promises to make the operation of the rule of great interest.

THE POPULATION OF THIS CITY, estimated up to the middle of 1902, as contained in the annual report of the City Health Department, shows that there are in Montreal 277,829 souls. By the same report in 1891 there were 216,644 people, in 1901 258,705, the average rate of increase per year being 1,941. The religious denominations are: French Catholics, 169,165; other Catholics, 40,549; Protestants, 68,115; making a total of 277,829.

The population according to wards is estimated to be as follows:—

St. Ann's, 22,658; St. Antoine, 49,452; St. Lawrence, 22,715; St. Louis, 27,934; St. James, 41,553; St. Mary's, 42,165; West, 455; Centre, 1,135; East, 2,673; Hochelaga, 13,401; St. Gabriel, 16,561; St. Jean Baptiste, 27,763; St. Denis, 9,364. The above figures do not take into account the populations of several suburbs that are practically part of the city.

EXPEDITION TO HUDSON'S BAY.—The expedition under the direction of Mr. Low and Captain Smart, of the Geological Department, to explore Hudson's Bay and James' Bay, in connection with the Department of Marine and Fisheries, has set out. The party will be away about a couple of years, and a survey of the entire region will be undertaken with special regard to navigation, colonization, mineral and vegetable resources. The historian and secretary of the expedition is Mr. Gaston de Montigny.

The route will be down the St. Lawrence, through the Straits of Belle Isle, along the coast of Labrador, and to Hudson Bay by Hudson Straits. The expedition will return by the interior through the Nellyway river, Victoria Lake, the Coulonge river, and the river Ottawa. This expedition is probably sent out in connection with the proposed railway that is projected to pass through the Hudson's Bay region.

A NEW CAUSE OF FIRE.—It takes the hallucinations of a Hoosier to keep the causes of fires from plunging into the endless explanation of "unknown," says "The Insurance Field." At Anderson, a devout spiritualist accuses evil spirits with throwing a lighted lamp through a wall and setting fire to the building. According to one Miss Nellie Black, spirits of the dead sometimes become malicious or devilish, maybe both, for after turning down the hall lamp, locking the door of her room, all was quiet until the firemen found her badly burned and the lamp, that had been left in the hall, shattered on the floor of her room.

SUICIDE LEAVES POLICY TO PAY HIS DEBTS.—"I die to pay my debts," wrote W. A. Long, one of the best known dry goods salesmen in Georgia. Then he took thirty tablets of morphine in the Kimball House, and was found dead in the morning. The "Insurance Herald" says the way Long expected his debts to be paid is by the distribution of \$3,000 insurance money representing a policy in the Royal Arcanum. This man's creditors are very unfairly used if they have to have their claims paid out of the proceeds of a crime for which they are to no extent responsible.

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