

Obituary

F. WOLFERSTAN THOMAS.

The death of Mr. Thomas has caused genuine sorrow. He was a truly good man, absolutely free from selfishness, and ever alive to the welfare of others. His kindness, benevolence, and sympathetic feeling made him active in works of charity. He seemed to never forget that we are all brethren, and, therefore, bound by the strongest ties to afford help to each other in our misfortunes. Never indifferent to suffering, he was never so happy as when engaged in working for the sick and afflicted, and delighted in going about doing good to all within his reach. Such a citizen can be ill-spared from Montreal, and at the General Hospital, and the many charitable institutions for which he so unselfishly and devotedly laboured, the name of Wolferstan Thomas will always be held in tender remembrance.

The deceased was an Englishman, born in 1834, and came to Canada in 1851. He joined the service of the Bank of Montreal, and became a branch manager of that institution. In 1870, he accepted the position of general manager of The Molsons Bank, and to his energy and enterprise that institution owes its growth.

His leisure time was devoted to works of charity and usefulness, and in promoting the welfare of the community in which he lived. What the Montreal General Hospital owes to his untiring care and attention is best known to his colleagues; although many among the masses will mourn for the kindly Christian gentleman who showed his sympathy with suffering by striving in the most practical way to alleviate same.

No better idea can be found of the busy life led by the deceased than in the following recital by the "Gazette" of the many offices filled by him:

One of the most successful of his efforts in connection with the hospital was the erection of the Jubilee Training Home for Nurses, at a cost of \$30,000, which was carried out in 1897, the year of Her Majesty's diamond jubilee. He was for several years a member of the Board of Trade, and in 1896 he was elected on the council of that body as representative of the bankers' branch, of which he was chairman, serving one term. In the same year he was elected president of the Dominion Bankers' Association. He took much interest in the Mackay Institute for Deaf Mutes, of which he was president. He was a member of St. George's Society, and from 1894 to 1896 he filled the office of president. He was a prominent member of the Good Government Association, a director of the Art Association, a trustee of the Mount Royal Cemetery Company (representing the Church of England), a director of the Canada Life Assurance Company, president of the Protestant Hospital for the Insane, treasurer of the Church Home, treasurer of the Andrew's Home, treasurer of the Murray Pay Convalescent Home, vice-president of the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and when, in 1884, the British Association for the Advancement of Science visited Montreal he filled the office of chairman of the local finance committee. He was an active member of the Church of England, and has been for a lengthened period a delegate to both or Diocesan and Provincial Synods of that body. He was also a Freemason of high degree.

FIRE AT POINTE CLAIRE, QUE:

A fire which destroyed some eighteen or nineteen buildings, took place in the above village on the 22nd

instant. The following are gross amounts of companies interested in the losses incurred:

Guardian.. . . .	\$10,000
Norwich Union.. . . .	4,000
Royal.. . . .	7,500
Scottish Union.. . . .	2,000
Imperial.. . . .	1,500
Commercial Union.. . . .	1,200
Phoenix of London.. . . .	1,500

PERSONAL.

Mr. E. L. Bond, of the British and Foreign Marine, sailed for England on the 18th inst, on business in connection with the interests of that company.

Mr. A. E. Bradbury, Ottawa, has been appointed special agent in that city for the Mutual Life of New York. Mr. Bradbury represented the Manufacturers Life for the past ten years.

Mr. Charles Alcock, manager of the Royal Insurance Co., Liverpool, sailed for Europe on the 19th instant, from New York.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We have received a copy of the Montreal Pharmaceutical Journal, in which the proposed Act to regulate the sale of Proprietary Medicines as introduced in the Ontario Legislature is editorially dealt with. What a stout champion the paper in question is of the interests it represents, may be gathered from the following opinion upon the measure:—

"It will do more harm than good to those whom it is designed to benefit, and if this Act becomes law it will most surely be repealed at the next session of the Legislature. Have the druggists no right to consideration? Has vested capital and established business no right to fair honest treatment? The press can and will speak for themselves, but it would seem that some united action by all those interests affected could gain the attention of the Government of the Province, could secure consideration at the hands of the members of the Legislature, and at once put a stop to this iniquitous effort. It is iniquitous because the object is to strangle a legitimate established business for the express purpose of enabling an overcrowded profession to live better. Competent physicians can do well anywhere, Charlatans, quacks, and lazy, incompetent men require friends to maintain them or seek by legislation like this to secure a living. The public are robbed when they are not properly treated, and now it is proposed to rob the public in one way to save them from the bare chance of trouble at some one else's hands."

We have also received a copy of the address delivered by Mr. Henry Miles, before St. James' Literary Society, on "Commercial Education." That very useful organization, striving as its members are for mutual improvement, can only be congratulated for enjoying the pleasure and profit of hearing one of Montreal's successful business men discuss a subject of so much importance.