

Indian Wheat Supply Continued.

The cost of production in India is at present very low, but it has to be remembered that owing to the expense of transport it only pays to import from the Punjab when the selling price in England is some 11s. above the price in the local markets. At present prices there is a good return to the Indian grower, but the increasing cost of labour in India is a factor which may have to be reckoned with. There are, however, so many possible sources of economy that India will almost inevitably take an increasingly important part in supplying our needs in the years to come.

FIRE AT WAKEFIELD, QUE.

By the fire which occurred on the 16th instant, on the premises of A. Mc. MacLarne, Wakefield, Que., the following companies are interested:

Commercial Union.....\$4,462	Royal.....\$4,462
Home.....6,693	Northern.....4,462
Liv. & Lon. & Globe.....4,462	Connecticut.....4,462
North Brit. & Mercantile. 6,693	
Phoenix of London.....4,462	Total.....\$40,158
Loss, total.	

FIRE AT FORT WILLIAM, ONT.

On the 24th instant, a serious fire broke out on the premises of H. Harkness (dry goods) Fort William, Ont. The following companies are interested on stock: Manitoba, New York Underwriters, Guardian, Richmond and Drummond. London Mutual.

On building, Sun & Phenix of Brooklyn.

Further particulars in next issue.

FIRE AT MONTREAL.

On the 21st instant, a fire occurred on the premises of F. Lapiere, Dorion St., Montreal. Insured in the Liverpool & London & Globe for \$7,000. Loss \$2,000.

FIRE AT OTTAWA.

A fire occurred on the 18th inst., in the Christian Brothers' School, Ottawa. Insured in the Liverpool & London & Globe for \$15,000. Loss \$3,700.

MR. B. HAL BROWN returned from Great Britain by the White Star Dominion Line SS. Megantic, after an absence of five weeks. He arrived in Montreal on Sunday night. Mr. W. M. Macpherson, president of the Molsons Bank, was also on board. Mr. Hal Brown speaks in the highest terms of the Megantic. He was in London at the time of the King's death and was much impressed by the universality of the genuine sorrow displayed. He saw Lord Strathcona (who is chairman of the London and Lancashire board) looking as well and as busy as ever.

BUSH FIRES IN SASKATCHEWAN.—Bush fires this week have destroyed about 150 square miles of timber in Saskatchewan south of Mistation. The women and children in the district were all rescued by Canadian Northern trains. The limits are government property and government rangers are making active efforts to check the progress of the flames.

Hotel Champlain Burned.

The Hotel Champlain at Bluff Point, N.Y., near Plattsburg, the property of the Delaware & Hudson Railway Company, and well known to Montrealers, was destroyed by fire on Wednesday. The loss is estimated at \$300,000 with \$233,000 insurance.

National Holidays. In the early summer the young Canadian's fancy can hardly fail to turn to thoughts of loyalty and patriotism. With St. George's Day on April 23, Empire Day, May 24, Queen Mary's birthday May 26, King George's birthday June 3, and Dominion Day July 1, he will be in little danger of forgetting the colours of the flag, the smell of gunpowder or the tune of "God Save the King."

The Horrors of a Throne.

A despatch from Madrid regarding the alleged plot to assassinate King Alfonso says: "Anxiety is always felt for King Alfonso when he leaves the capital." It would seem as though the moment for anxiety is when His Majesty gets back there. In England he was free from worry and free from danger. With eight other monarchs he could ride through the crowded streets of London, none daring to make him afraid. On his return to Madrid he finds the dynamite awaiting him.

N. Y. Presbytery on Trial for Heresy.

The decision of the Presbyterian General Assembly of the United States, to try the New York Presbytery on charges of heresy, on account of its having granted orders to three young men, who refused to accept in full the doctrines of the church promises to be an interesting "heresy hunt." If a whole presbytery can be tried for heresy, who is to try the General Assembly on similar charges? It reminds us of the old Scotch lady who said to her husband: "I think everybody's queer except you and me Jock and sometimes I think thee bee'st a little bit queer."

Land Speculation in the Western States.

Active speculation in land is not confined to our Canadian West. Some of the bankers in Chicago are attributing the semi-stringent conditions there in part to the prevalence of an extensive land speculation all over the West and Middle West. Values have been rising rapidly and when an owner sells out a farm or other land holding at a largely increased price, he usually puts the money back into a new land deal on a larger scale. The banks are actively concerned in these transactions. In some cases they lend money direct on real estate mortgages and in a round about way there is a great deal of bank money going into loans of this character. In