

Financial and Commercial.

HARD HIT LAST YEAR.

A Year of Disaster in Fire Insurance Business.

THE FIGURES.

Losses Annually to \$267,544,700 by Great Conflagrations in Toronto, Baltimore and Rochester—Companies Quit Business.

In the year just closed a decidedly unprofitable record has been made for fire underwriters. While other branches of commerce are feeling the effects of the revival in business the fire insurance companies have had to struggle with most disastrous losses and quite a few find themselves at the close of the year poorer than at its beginning.

The fire waste of this country has been for years a great drain on its property wiping out as it does \$125,000,000 to \$150,000,000 annually of the national wealth.

The chief feature of the year was the great Baltimore conflagration, destroying some \$70,000,000 worth of property and its resulting disasters among some of the companies. One of the local companies doing business in Baltimore, at the time of the fire only had a few hundred dollars in business without putting up additional capital.

Immediately after the Baltimore disaster the country realized that some measures must be inaugurated to indemnify fully for the usual disaster and some better and better facilities for the fire protection facilities of large cities.

This committee immediately secured a competent corps of engineers and made application to the United States government for federal incorporation, which was granted, the president designating two naval engineers in consultation with the engineers in their investigations.

Deficient Water Supply. This work has been progressing very favorably although the importance of the undertaking, requires time. It is the policy of this committee when it has received the report of the engineers pointing out the deficiencies in the fire fighting equipment of a city to bring the matter to the attention of the local authorities and strongly urge upon them the necessity of bringing the department up to its proper efficiency.

The year's enormous loss. The fire losses for the year 1904 reach the amazing total of \$267,544,700, which includes a partial estimate for the month of December. The figures are taken from the compilations of the Journal of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin, and show the following details by months with comparison with the preceding year.

January . . . \$13,100,000 \$11,700,000
February . . . 15,000,000 10,000,000
March . . . 9,000,000 12,100,000
April . . . 15,000,000 20,000,000
May . . . 16,800,000 15,200,000
June . . . 12,800,000 10,600,000
July . . . 12,800,000 11,900,000
August . . . 4,400,000 7,700,000
September . . . 9,300,000 14,300,000
October . . . 12,800,000 12,800,000
November . . . 13,800,000 11,500,000
December . . . 17,200,000 14,700,000
Total . . . \$156,195,800 \$247,544,700

These figures show an alarming total, and even with the three great conflagrations, Baltimore, Rochester and Toronto deducted, leave a heavier loss than in 1905, which was had year for fire underwriting standpoint. As a result of these large fire losses several prominent fire insurance companies, aside from those in Baltimore, decided to retire from the business.

LARGE BLAST FURNACES START. Pittsburgh, Pa., Jan. 5.—After an illness since last year the blast furnaces of the American Steel & Wire Company, New Castle, have resumed operations. Over 400 men are furnished with employment. The large number of orders insure plenty of work for the furnaces for many months. The furnace is one of the latest additions to the works of the company of the steel corporation. The daily capacity of the blast is about 600 tons of pig iron.

NOVA SCOTIA FAULTS. 1904 was a bad year for failures in Nova Scotia. They totaled 153, with liabilities of \$1,027,428 and nominal assets of \$706,896. In 1905, 143 failures in Dartmouth were 20, with liabilities of \$641,904, and assets of \$480,990.

RECOVERY IN VALUE NEARLY \$50,000,000.

(Montreal Herald.) The recovery in Montreal stocks from the low to the high level looks very substantial in figures the present value of trading properties amounting to \$227,500,000 as against \$279,150,000, when stocks were at the lowest in 1904. The figures follow:

Table with 2 columns: Name and Value. Includes entries like Pacific, Montreal, Toronto, etc.

\$279,150,071 \$277,875,159

NEW YORK STOCK QUOTATIONS.

Chicago Market Report and New York Cotton Market. Published by U. C. Clinch, Broker and Broker. For Saint Louis Times.

Table with 3 columns: Description, Yesterday's Close, Today's Open. Includes entries like Amalgam Copper, Am Sugar, etc.

CHICAGO MARKET.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes entries like May Corn, May Wheat, etc.

MONTREAL QUOTATIONS.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes entries like Dom. Coal, Dom. Lumber, etc.

NORTHERN SECURITIES CASE.

New York, Jan. 5.—That the Northern Securities case will be taken up by the United States Supreme Court on the 12th of January was announced by a copy of the decision of the Supreme Court, which was made to the United States Court as soon as the court reconvened. It is expected that a writ of certiorari from the Supreme Court will act as a stay, and prevent temporarily the distribution of the Northern Pacific stock held by the Great Northern company.

MONTREAL COLLECTIONS.

The Customs duties collected at the port of Montreal for the month of December, 1904, were \$13,800,431, against \$13,800,431 in 1903, showing a falling off in collections of \$70,648.

CROSSED OCEAN IN SMALL BOAT.

The "Uriadd," a Norwegian Life Boat, Completes Trip Across Atlantic. Boston, Jan. 5.—A Norwegian lifeboat, probably the Uriadd although reported as the "Turist," was sighted today ten miles off Cape Cod by the cutter Baker, with the loss of her rudder, and a desire of a tug to tow her to Boston. Those on board, consisting of a crew of four men, declined assistance from the Baker and reported themselves as well. As the little vessel is directly in the track of tugs bound here from southern ports, it is likely that she will be taken in tow within the next 24 hours.

The Uriadd has practically completed the passage of the North Atlantic in midwinter, being bound from Alesund, Norway, to New York. Captain Schonwandt of the Baker sighted her about ten miles east southeast of the wireless telegraph towers at South Wellfleet at 10:40 o'clock this afternoon and running near her, was informed by the skipper that the gale of yesterday had been successfully weathered although the rudder became unshipped in the terrific seas. The wind was blowing a fresh breeze from the north northwest at the time, and it is probable that the little vessel will drift off to the southward a trifle, but not far enough to take her off the path of coastwise traffic.

The Uriadd was reported last week by one of the incoming steamers as being about 300 miles off the coast.

IMPORTS.

From Liverpool ex star Pretorian: Brook & Paterson, 2 cases dry goods. Estabrook, J. T. & Sons, 55 cases oranges. Goodwin A. L., 28 cases onions. Hayward W. H., & Co., 1 pipe mds. Jones S., 10 pipes rope. Do., 14 cases barley. London House, 17 pipes dry goods. McIntyre & Co., 31 cases brandy. MacLaren Mrs., 3 boxes pheasants. Macaulay Bros., 8 pipes dry goods. Scott H. & Co., 44 pipes dry goods. Olive H. C., 8 pipes dry goods. Bank of Montreal, New 100 cases sheep skins. St. John Iron Works, 1 case mds. Samuel M. & L., 4 cases mds. Sullivan H. & Co., 2 cases mds. Skinner A. O., 1 roll carpet. Williams F. E., & Co., 60 cases whiskey. Varnis & Co., 8 pipes mds. William F. E., & Co., 60 cases oranges. Also a large freight for the west.

From Glasgow ex star Alcedo:

Order, P. E. W., Co., 10 cases essence. Bank of Montreal, 20 cases essence. Order, W. P. H. & Co., 25 cases essence. Buggis, J., 120 cases pipes. Sullivan H. & Co., 50 cases whiskey. Royal, 100 boxes lemons. M. R. & A., 79 cases mds. Charles W. & Co., 200 cases brick. Robertson J. Co., 200 bags fire clay. Do., 100 bags fire clay. Do., 5,000 fire brick.

For Montreal:

McClary Mfg Co., C.H.C., 30 bids black sheets. 217,774 feet oak, order. St. James Mfg. Co., 1 bid, 1 case canvas. From Richmond, Va., ex schr Lucia Port, 254 bags rock. 200 bags sulphate, order.

MONTREAL SHIPPING RECORD.

The following is the record of arrival of all goods vessels at Montreal between 1903 and 1904:

ARRIVAL.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Tonnage, Date. Includes entries like Anaconda, Steamers, etc.

DEPARTURE.

Table with 3 columns: Name, Tonnage, Date. Includes entries like Anaconda, Steamers, etc.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

London, Jan. 5.—The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes since yesterday 6:58, 7:00.

MINIATURE ALMANAC.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Tides. Includes entries like Jan. 6, 7, 8, etc.

PORT OF SAINT JOHN.

Arrived. Behr Laefer, 29th, 24th, Sprague, from Richmond, Va., Peter McIntyre, oak lumber. Behr Hunter, 187, Hamilton, from Carter, N. J., D. J. Purdy, phos. rock, oak and potatoes. Cleared. Schv. V. B. Roberts, 124, Roberts, from Kingston, N. S., with a cargo of potatoes. Schv. H. D. Spears, 209, Belyea, oysters, from St. John's, Nfld. Schv. J. A. Gregory, lumber, from St. John's, Nfld. Schv. J. A. Gregory, lumber, from St. John's, Nfld.

DOMINION PORTS.

BEHMUDA, Dec. 5.—Sld star Eretria, for Halifax. GOSWICK, Dec. 5.—Sld star Eretria, for Halifax. GOSWICK, Dec. 5.—Sld star Eretria, for Halifax. GOSWICK, Dec. 5.—Sld star Eretria, for Halifax.

FOREIGN PORTS.

HAMBURG, Dec. 6.—Ardr star Vidua, from Rotterdam and Norfolk. CITY ISLAND, Jan. 5.—Bound south, schr S. W. Smith, from Port Chester. EMBY B. Sumner, from St. John's. BOYD, Jan. 5.—Ardr star gerra, from Antwerp. James Alexander, from Manila and Celeb. Sigsbee, from Liverpool. CATALON, for Liverpool. BATHYBATH, for Liverpool. BATHYBATH, for Liverpool. BATHYBATH, for Liverpool.

THE BONUSING OF INDUSTRIES.

And Votes on Municipal Ownership in Ontario Towns. A large number of by-laws were voted upon at the elections in various municipalities of Ontario this week. In several places considerable sums were voted for civic improvements and the acquisition of private enterprises. By-laws to bonus industries by loans or exemptions met with varying success.

The ratemakers of St. Thomas voted upon the bonds of the St. Thomas gas and electric plant at the price fixed by the arbitrators, \$205,000. The by-law carried by a majority of 615. Galt defeated a by-law to loan \$5,000 to new local industry for a workshop by 200 votes. Caledonia defeated the by-law to bonus a cannery factory. In Seaforth a by-law to loan furniture manufacturers \$20,000 for twenty years was carried by a good majority, there being only 31 against it.

The by-law voted on in St. Mary's to grant a loan to the St. Mary's Quarry Company for \$30,000 was defeated by a large majority. At Ingersoll a bonus by-law to grant a loan to Bradbury and Waterhouse, woollen manufacturers, to purchase a new loom, was defeated. Kinardine by-laws for a free library and for the extension of the High School were carried by large majorities.

By-laws to exempt from taxation for 10 years the Pictou Business College was carried by 572. To Thamesville a by-law to run the electric light plant by a board of commissioners was defeated by 5. The by-law to establish a gas plant in Petrolia was defeated by a small majority.

By-laws voted on by Hamilton ratemakers to raise \$50,000 for market improvements were carried. Five by-laws were voted on in Brantford. One, to grant the Water Commissioners \$50,000 to improve the civic water plant, was carried. The other four were defeated and provided for the abolition of the ward system, reduction of aldermen from 15 to 10, amalgamation of local school boards, and a scheme of general drainage of the city at a cost of \$20,000. The majorities were large against all of them.

Guelph carried one by-law for \$30,000 to extend the waterworks street railway and buy a park. The by-law for \$25,000 to enlarge the Collegiate Institute was defeated. For \$7,000 to put in a new filter and improve the water works was carried. A by-law to spend \$20,000 on an up-to-date water filtering plant was defeated in Lindsay. In Chatham a by-law to grant aid

THE WORLD OF SHIPPING.

Waldersae, from schr G. M. Porter, from South Amboy, for Eastport. From Halifax, from schr Havre, Nunidun for Glasgow, Bark Meran, for Dundee. REPORTS, DISASTERS, ETC. HALIFAX, Jan. 6.—Despatch received today states schooner Julian A. Baker, 200 tons, left for Liverpool, with cargo fish, was abandoned at sea and the crew were rescued by the tug owned at Liverpool and with cargo insured here.

QUANTINE, St. Jan. 4.—British schooner A. J. Gibson has been floated by tugs from Halifax and is leaving Halifax for St. John's. SHELBRINE, N.S., Jan. 3.—Fishing schooner A. J. Gibson has been floated by tugs from Halifax and is leaving Halifax for St. John's.

ST. FRANCISCO, Dec. 3.—German steamer Noko from Hamburg, etc. reports derelict Oct. 12, S. lat. 49, W. lon. 121, 13.1. No marks by which vessel could be identified. BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 4.—The steamer Capt. Hudgins, from Baltimore for Boston, was lost at night below Boston's point. She was floated today and proceeded on her voyage.

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld., Jan. 5.—Two life ships marked "Edith Mary" and "Mary" are believed to be lying to the iron bars in the bay, which long section Sept. 14, for St. John's and is now 113 days unreported. It has been engaged in preliminary work for the proposed road, on the St. John's area. The area is organized with a capital stock of \$500,000, and estimates of length of the road is one thousand miles.

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Something Special IN THE LINE OF Christmas Cakes, Macaroons, Scotch Cakes, etc.

Call and inspect our stock. You are sure to find something to please you both in price and quality.

HYGIENIC BAKERY, 134 to 138 Mill Street.

Classified Advertisements.

One cent a word each insertion. Six consecutive insertions for the price of four. Minimum charge 25 cents.

WANTED—Female for general work at 194 Princess street, up stairs. Good wage to good girl.

SITUATION WANTED.

By a young lady of several years experience, for general office work. Address Y. B. care of Times office.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE—Bay horse, weight about 1075 lbs sound, kind, very good roader and free driver, used to city, over leaving city. Apply to R. T. Warden, Princess street.

LOST.

LOST—in the vicinity of Morrison's warehouse, 214 St. John's street, a pair of gloves. Will finder please leave at the warehouse.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED—A small flat, central locality preferred, rent moderate. Address "T" care of this office.

Plano, Pipe and Reed Organs, tuned by A. B. Osborne. Orders left at W. H. Hall, 79 Gormley St., Phone 1407.

GRAND CONCERT.

TUESDAY EVENING, Jan. 17th, in the St. John Presbyterian Ch. School Room.

The Best Local Talent has kindly consented to take part.

Tickets, 15cts.

J. V. RUSSELL'S

Main Street Store and Brussels St. Store, and SMITH & SKELDON Bakery, 122 Charlotte Street.

E. E. BECK & CO.

Commissioner, Stock Broker, Correspondents of W. B. SMITH & CO.

Phone 1161. SATURDAY BARGAINS ROBINSON'S

173 Union Street.

SLEETH, QUINLAN & CO

Manufacturers and Dealers in Red and Grey Granite, Freestone and Marble.

C. E. DOWDEN,

Manager. Offices 55 Canterbury Street, Rooms 37 and 38.

The Bank of British North America.

ESTABLISHED 1836. Capital, \$1,000,000. Reserve, \$400,000.

Branches in St. John: 29 Prince William Street, Corner Union and Sydney Streets.

A general banking business transacted and highest current rates paid on deposits.

It is proposed to open the Union Street Branch on SATURDAY EVENINGS, from 8 to 10, for the accommodation of customers who find it inconvenient to do their banking during regular hours.

AMUSEMENTS.

YORK THEATRE. Farewell Week OF Vaudeville THIS WEEK. Great Show.

ALLEN DOONE & CO., in the Irish Piper. PHIL MORTON King of Irish Comedians. LAWRENCE & THOMPSON, Comedy Cyclists. CHADWICK TRIO, in Bank Holiday Visit. RENA ARNOLD, Comedienne. SORAKER BROTHERS expert Dancers.

Matinee Daily.

PRICES. Night—15, 25, 35, 50c. Matinee—10, 25c, any seat. Secure seats at box office. Phone 1889.

OPERA HOUSE.

The Dailey Co.

TONIGHT. in Madeline Lacette Ryelie's Comedy in 4 acts. Christopher Jr.

NEXT PLAY

Charles Erin Verner's English Melodrama, Current Cash

MATINEES

Wednesday and Saturday.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Saint John Opera House Company will be held at the opera house on Thursday, January 18th, 1906, at 8:30 P. M.

Police Sports

VICTORIA RINK.

Friday, January 13.

Under the auspices of the St. John Police Relief Association.

Biggest Night of Sport Ever Given in St. John.

See the List of Events.

Boys' Race One Mile. Boys' Race Half Mile. 220 Yards. 440 Yards. 880 Yards. Street Railway Men's Race. Letter Carriers' Race. Snow Show Race. Patrolman's Race.

Handsome Prizes given for each event. Entries received by secretary or at office at Rink.

GEO. R. BAXTER, Pres. F. W. JENKINS, Sec.

QUEENS' SKATING RINK.

Season 1904-5.

Grand Opening Christmas Day.

Bands will be in attendance Tuesday and Thursday evenings and Saturday afternoons throughout the winter.

Gentlemen's Tickets, 25 Ladies' Tickets, 15 Children's Tickets, 10

F. G. SPENCER, Manager. House Telephone 1295.

Holly and Mistletoe for Christmas!

Choice Roses, Carnations, Hyacinths, Narcissus, Violets, etc., etc. Pretty Pots of Primroses and Hyacinths in bloom. Also Asparagus Ferns and other ferns suitable for Xmas presents.

H. S. CRUIKSHANK. Phone 614. Store 189 Union Street. 608 S. Gormley.

NOTICE.

W. A. Fleming & Co. Owing to the prolonged illness of Mr. Walter A. Fleming, it has been decided to discontinue the business now being carried on under the name of W. A. Fleming & Co., consequently the stock will now be offered to the public at reduced prices in order to expedite the sale.

771 Craig St. Montreal, Que. Branch Office, St. John, N. B., January 25th, 1906.