his spite. Fortunately losses from such accidents may be provided against, and Messrs. Bilton Bros. had the foresight to have their windows insured in a plate glass company.

BOOK NOTICES.

The mid-summer numbers (July) of the *Inland Printer*, Chicago, and the *American Bookmaker*, New York, are to hand and are full of valuable reading matter for the craft. The former continues the notes and illustrations in half tone of the Childs-Drexel Home for union printers. The *Bookmaker* enters on its fifteenth volume, and gives every indication of healthy enterprise in its various departments.

Handsome colored supplements in color, and others in black and white, accompany the July number of the *Art Interchange*, New York, while there is much in the letter-press to interest the amateur.

That shoes and leather will have ample opportunity to manifest their importance to the contemplated millions of the World's Fair, is evident from the colored supplement issued by the *Shoe and Leather Review* of Boston. This gives an idea of a building the architecture and space of which will fittingly house the exhibits of so large an industry.

When a tired man wisely decides on going away, even for a brief time, from the worries and cares of business, he consults his Baedecker, which in Canada spells railway guide, selects his destination, buys a ticket, and in a few hours is whirled far enough away to enjoy to the full the sweets of a well-earned summer outing. The 140 page route-book just issued by the Grand Trunk Railway will save such a person a great deal of thinking as to tours, fares, boarding places, etc., etc. If he cannot, in this handy little affair, find a pleasant retreat from city life, he must be a misanthrope indeed.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings for week ended July 21st, $12,830,573. Balances, $1,973.346.

TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended July 21st, 1892, are as under :—

	Clearings.	Balances.
July 15	$1,164,576	98,843
" 16	1,499,431	247,310
" 18	941,488	161,948
" 19	1,759,879	168,706
" 20	1,334,864	309,792
" 21	995,228	107,900
Total	$8,695,466	$1,094,499

HALIFAX CLEARING-HOUSE.

Bank clearings for week ending July 16th, 1892, were as follows, viz. :

Monday,	July 11	$250,014 92
Tuesday,	" 12	161,038 54
Wednesday,	" 13	168,423 64
Thursday,	" 14	163,224 42
Friday,	" 15	197,879 04
Saturday,	" 16	251,106 52
Total	....	$1,191,687 08

—The manager of the Trusts Corporation of Ontario gives notice of a half yearly dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum, payable on the 1st August.

—A commission appointed by the Government of New Brunswick has for its object enquiry as to the general defects in the present system of assessment, a most live and important matter. It held its first sitting at Moncton on Monday last, but will meet in other places and take evidence. Senator McLellan is the chairman, Hon. G. H. Flewelling and Mr. W. R. Vroom, of St. John, the commissioners, and Mr. W. B. Chandler, of St. John, is the secretary. It is stated that the new law of the province will likely be based on the report of the commission, lightening the burden upon personal and putting it upon real estate.

—The position of manager to the Bristol and West of England Canadian Land, Mortgage and Investment Co. (ltd.), made vacant by the recent death of Mr. Wm. Kersteman, jr., has just been filled by the appointment of Mr. Alex. M. Clarkson, of this city. Mr. Clarkson is a young man who brings to his new duties nearly fifteen years' experience with the Western Canada Loan Co., of this city, in which institution he has climbed the ladder from the lowest round to that of assistant inspector. Those who know him best concede to him the qualities which go to make a capable manager.

—The sum to be raised for the new fiscal year by the municipality of Galt is $54,581, and as the incidental receipts are estimated at $6,559, the remainder has to be raised by taxation. Of the above amount interest and sinking funds consume a good share; public schools, $12,000; County and Credit Valley, $7,065; waterworks interest, $5,000, and so on. The rate of taxation for the year is eighteen mills and two-fifths.

—Judge Ouimet of the Province of Quebec has decided that a notary who in addition to his notarial business receives deposits, pays interest thereon, and deals in real estate, can be looked upon as a trader and cannot plead that he is a professional man, and, therefore, exempt from the provisions of the insolvency law. Under such circumstances a demand of assignment can legally be made upon him.

—The officers of the board of trade at Chatham, Ont., elected to serve during the year now current are : S. T. Martin, president ; S. J. Sutherland, vice-president; Thomas Scullard, secretary.

BIG FIRE IN MONTREAL.

That part of Griffintown in the city of Montreal which lies around William street and Haymarket Square, Wellington street and Nazareth street, was the scene of an extensive fire on Monday afternoon last. It began in the finishing shop of Clendenning's big foundry about 3.30, spread across William street to the Canada Pipe Company's warehouse, then back to Clendenning's new warehouse and reaching the extensive paint and oil works of A. Ramsay & Co., where its eastward progress was checked. In less than an hour two whole blocks were in flames, and the flying sparks and embers had set fire to eight or ten buildings outside the main conflagration, to Robertson's shot-tower and to the tower of St. Mark's Church. The various sections of the fire brigade were fighting as best they could with the blazing piles around them when a detatchment of 50 men from H. M. S. "Pylades" came upon the scene at a run, and worked like Trojans, pulling up the hose on the ladders, etc. Fears that the whole of Griffintown would burn brought 10,000 to the scene, and the entire police reserve was needed to control the people. Suddenly a brand was blown into the immense hay warehouse of Brousseau & Marson, which held at the time 3,000 tons of hay. This was directly in a blaze, and its black smoke rolled away to the south. Thirty thousand dollars' worth of hay and stone was soon converted into ashes and lime. The firemen worked nobly. Not until 8 o'clock was the flames under control, and by this time, in addition to the extensive premises mentioned, eight or ten dwellings had been destroyed, with no insurance. While this was going on three alarms had been rung for fires at distant parts of the city, which distracted the efforts of the brigade. At midnight the walls of a stone building, corner Grey Nun and Wellington streets, fell in, killing two citizens outright and injuring a fireman so that he died next day.

Six or seven British fire offices have risks in all on the burned property of $10,000 to $20,000 each ; six or seven more, Canadian and British and American, for $2,500 to $5,000 each. The total insurance is understood to reach $150,000. Clendenning's is placed at $110,000 and that of A. Ramsay & Son at $70,000.

ABOUT FIRE LOSSES.

The country's fire loss for the first half of the current year has been over sixty-five million dollars. It is heavier than the same period last year. The one improvement in the situation is that companies are seriously endeavoring to strengthen themselves, and have made moderate progress in that direction. There is less throat-cutting and rates are more equitable. But it is doubtful whether a sufficient altitude in rates has yet been reached, although it is probably well enough to be conservative and gradual in advances.

Through Missouri the average of loss has thus far been worse this year than in the same months of 1891. If the balance of the year proves equally bad, Missouri's loss rate will not be less than 70 per cent. of premiums. Yet some of the companies are making money here right along, just as they have for years past. We have no present explanation for the way Missouri is burning.

St. Louis losses average about normal, although the recent big car-house fire of the Suburban Railroad takes something over $300,000, or about 10 per cent. of the year's premiums. That fire does not call for any special explanation. Make the combination of paints, oils, varnish, greasy rags, electricity both for power and light, large values in inflammable materials, all at a distance from the fire department—and the question needing explanation is, why was so much insurance money risked there? That risk was so far away that engine horses dropped dead from exhaustion before the conflagration was reached.

Some of the worst months are yet to come. St. Louis can now hardly hope to make a notably good record this year, but she may be able to keep well within the losses of last year. The brighter phase of the matter is that the competitive relations between companies through their agents are in much more favorable shape than for past years. With but little interruption or clash, local influences are pulling together to make money for all hands.

All the same, an East St. Louis fisherman knows as much about the plans and special features of our big commercial and manufacturing risks as St. Louis firemen. The latter are presumably expected to "catch on" to all such items when the fires actually come. That is to say, while our fire department is in much better shape than it was a few months ago, it is not making progress with some of the plainest and most judicious measures for improvement. Our department must not loll and languish under the romantic idea that it is perfect.—*Western Ins. Review.*

TAX ON REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

The following is from the Sherbrooke correspondent of the St. Johns, Que., *News :* The tax on real estate transfers will have a serious effect on the Registrars' receipts, as every means will be taken to avoid it, in anticipation of the law being repealed. It is pretty hard for the individual who has been scraping and saving, to pay for the land he has occupied under location, ticket, or promise