

at once, and announcement of the letting of important contracts will be made shortly.

All the stations on the main line West of Edmonton as far as MacLeod River have been located and named as follows: Acheson, Sprucegrove, Stony Plain, Carve, Duffield, Wabamun, Fallis, Gainsford, Hargwen, Isfield, Jarrow, Keston, Leamen, MacKay, Niton, Otley, Peers, Rosevean, Thornton, Yates and Edson. Hargwen is the station at Pembina River, and Edson is the divisional point West of MacLeod.

Regina is rejoicing in the statement of ex-Mayor Smith to the effect that he had the promise of Fourth Vice-President Wainwright that the Grand Trunk Pacific line from Melville to Yorkton and Regina would be completed this season if men and money can do it. Mr. Wainwright said it was as important for the company to get a line through as it was for the city, and this will be the first branch built.

The headquarters of the Grand Trunk Pacific are to be removed to Winnipeg about the middle of June, Mr. E. J. Chamberlain, general manager, is at present in the West looking after the company's construction programme and arranging train service on completed sections. He will probably return to Montreal in a week or two and make the necessary arrangements for transferring his staff permanently to his future headquarters at Winnipeg.

#### Life Companies' Western Investments.

The importance of the part taken by life insurance companies in the upbuilding of the West is evidenced by the following comparison of premiums received and investments held in Manitoba for the year 1908.

|                      | Premiums.<br>1908. | Am't Invested<br>1908. |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Aetna.....           | \$ 24,303          | \$ 149,893             |
| Alliance.....        | 19,536             | 12,890                 |
| Continental.....     | 166,340            | 2,629,996              |
| Canada.....          | 195,348            | 2,325,427              |
| Confederation.....   | 17,785             | 45,901                 |
| Crown.....           | 15,156             | 626,452                |
| Dominion.....        | 44,327             | 391,872                |
| Excelsior.....       | .....              | 1,430,494              |
| Edinburgh.....       | 82,022             | 357,357                |
| Federal.....         | 250,917            | 1,042,938              |
| Great West.....      | 36,023             | 95,513                 |
| Home.....            | 65,982             | 1,967,576              |
| Imperial.....        | 31,735             | 917,665                |
| London.....          | 78,104             | 999,086                |
| Manufacturers.....   | 45,830             | 1,051,235              |
| Metropolitan.....    | 7,126              | 3,800                  |
| Monarch.....         | 135,873            | 2,352,715              |
| Mutual (Canada)..... | 22,835             | 49,497                 |
| Northern.....        | 72,413             | 973,292                |
| North American.....  | 9,608              | .....                  |
| Prudential.....      | 31,121             | 507,200                |
| Standard.....        | 26,041             | 54,000                 |
| Sovereign.....       | 71,100             | 63,350                 |
| Sun.....             | 24,112             | 497,946                |
| Travellers.....      | 24,106             | 406,485                |
| Union Mutual.....    | 5,085              | 36,366                 |
| Universal.....       | .....              | .....                  |

The report of the Inspector of Insurance for Manitoba shows an increase in the number of provincial companies, and also indicates that liabilities exceed assets of \$570,000 by \$20,000, when \$250,000 of paid-up capital is included.

Even allowing that the \$280,000 taken as unearned premium reserve is somewhat greater than would be necessary for actual re-insurance of risks, the general showing is not too bright.

#### New C. P. R. Tariff for Alberta Wheat.

The C. P. R. has announced a new tariff of rates for wheat shipments via Vancouver from Alberta

points to Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Fiji Islands, Mexico, New Zealand, Philippine Islands and South America. The tariff does not apply to the United States of Alaska. The tariff will go into effect July 8 of this year.

According to Mr. W. B. Lanigan, assistant freight traffic manager of the C. P. R.'s Western lines, oat and barley seeding is practically completed in the West—wheat in most sections being now two or three inches above ground. Although conditions are a fortnight later than last year, it is Mr. Lanigan's firm conviction that with continuance of favourable weather the growth will catch up with last year's outlook about the end of June, the reason being found in the fact that never before had the land been so good for seeding as it was when spring opened this season. Mr. Lanigan states that compared with last year, there was an increase in the fall ploughing, and there was also an increase in the acreage under summer fallow.

#### FIRE AT JAMES ROBERTSON CO., LIMITED.

By the fire which occurred on the 22nd instant on the premises of the James Robertson Co., Limited, wholesale plumbers' supplies, etc., William Street, Montreal, the following companies are interested:

|                            |          |                      |           |
|----------------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------|
| Alliance.....              | \$ 4,290 | Dominion.....        | \$ 6,435  |
| Aetna.....                 | 4,290    | Rimouski.....        | 4,290     |
| Commercial Union.....      | 21,450   | Montreal Canada..... | 6,435     |
| Home.....                  | 4,290    | Canada Mutual.....   | 4,290     |
| Connecticut.....           | 4,290    | Equity.....          | 6,435     |
| German-American.....       | 4,290    | Traders.....         | 4,290     |
| Insurance Co. of N. A..... | 6,435    | Equitable.....       | 6,435     |
| British America.....       | 6,435    | New State Fire.....  | 5,362     |
| North British.....         | 21,450   | Fonciere.....        | 4,290     |
| Northern.....              | 21,450   | Ontario Fire.....    | 6,435     |
| Union.....                 | 8,580    | Providence.....      | 4,290     |
| Phoenix of Brooklyn.....   | 6,435    | Ottawa.....          | 4,290     |
| Norwich Union.....         | 8,580    | Mount Royal.....     | 10,725    |
| Caledonian.....            | 4,290    | Standard Mutual..... | 4,290     |
| Rich'm'd & Drumm'd.....    | 4,290    |                      |           |
| Western.....               | 5,362    |                      | \$214,500 |

Loss, about 95 per cent.

#### THE DRY DOCK PROJECT.

Yesterday Mr. G. W. Stephens, president of the Montreal Harbour Commission, made an important announcement as to the proposed building of a dry dock for Montreal by a large British firm. The firm has submitted a proposal approved by six expert engineers, master mechanics and ship-builders whom it sent to Canada some time ago.

The scheme involves a total capital expenditure by the Canadian Government extending over two years of one and a half million dollars to create the site for the floating dock and an area of made land contiguous thereto for the proposed industrial development. The company proposes not only build the dry dock, but operate it during the term of its lease.

Mr. Stephens points out, that by this scheme the port of Montreal will not only secure a modern dry dock with a capacity of 25,000 tons, but will also see the establishment of a large industrial enterprise. This is a serious business proposal made by people who are willing to invest their own money to the extent of two and a half millions in it.