

During November four new fire alarm boxes have been added to the city system, viz.:

Box No. 121—Toronto Bridge Co.'s Building, King street West.

Box No. 146—Corner Queen and Lisgar.

Box No. 147—Corner Bathurst and St. Patrick.

Box No. 148—College and Clinton.

Proposal to Organize a Dominion Convention of the Chiefs of Departments.—The chiefs of a number of the fire brigades of this Province are just now in communication with some of their Ontario confreres regarding the formation of an association of the leading firemen of the Dominion, for the purpose of holding annual conventions to discuss matters connected with their duties. The necessity of some such organization has long been felt by the head men of our fire departments, as now they have to depend on their own ingenuity entirely for improving their systems, while a convention would enable them to make themselves acquainted with all the inventions and improvements made in the systems of fighting the fire fiend throughout the length and breadth of the country. Chief Davidson, of the Sherbrooke brigade, and Chief Benoit, of the St. Henri brigade, are interesting themselves in the matter, and with the approbation the scheme meets with on all sides, the prospects for a strong organization are very great. A meeting of representative firemen of the two Provinces will shortly be held in this city to discuss the question.—*Star*.

Ottawa's Record.—The following is the fire record of this city for the past eight years:—

Year.	No. fires.	Losses.	Expen- diture.
1874.....	27	\$104,000
1875.....	115	21,000	31,277
1876.....	126	27,000	19,381
1877.....	120	24,275	19,781
1878.....	123	17,407	17,383
1879.....	103	14,806	12,200
1880.....	96	28,073	12,036
1881.....	108	11,482	13,634
1882.....	96	*15,400	14,000

The brigade consists of a chief, deputy-chief, four reels, with one foreman and a guardian each. The loss for the eleven months of 1882 is estimated at \$15,400. In the eleven months the three heaviest fires amounted to \$14,000, being divided as follows:—Baldwin & Oliver's planing mill, \$6,300; Central School, \$2,100; Reardon's broom factory, \$3,000. This leaves 93 fires opposite a loss of only \$4,000.

His Claim not Entertained. A well-known lady and gentleman of our acquaintance had occasion to give their gardener William notice to leave the other day, and—singular fact—the garden tool-house was burnt to the ground the same night. After leaving, at the end of the notice, Master "Will" put in a claim through the post for garden tools, which he alleged were destroyed by the fire, and which it was more than suspected had been carried off by himself before the fire took place. There are certain natural misgivings as to whether Will is a "character," but there can be no doubt as to the claim of the gentleman, whose answer to William's note ran as follows:—

"We've studied, pro. and con. the items, *Will*,
You mention in this badly written *bill*,
And feel 't would be a downright *burning* shame
Were we to entertain your doubtful claim,
Or re-imburse the less than trifling cost
Of those old tools we know you never lost.
We're stupid, but we're not such downright fools
That we should either buy or be your *tools*."
—*Toronto Evening News*.

* Estimated for eleven months.

WATER WORKS NOTES.

Brantford.—Prominent business men are agitating for the erection of new water-works, in order to obtain a supply for household purposes. The springs to the north of the city, and Blue Lake, nine miles distant, are urged as sources of supply. The sanitary condition of the city is far from satisfactory, and those best versed in the matter are most fearful of the results, unless remedial measures are adopted.

Brampton was, like too many Canadian towns, until recently at the mercy of the flames. Compactly built, and many of the buildings being of wood, there was imminent danger, during times of drought, of the whole business part of the town being swept away in an hour. Fortunately such a terrible lesson was not needed to stimulate the people to provide against such an emergency.

The scheme was mooted a year or two since, but counsels were divided as to the best plan to adopt. Although there was and is an inexhaustible supply of pure water within four miles, and that at an elevation of 130 feet, there were many who distrusted the efficiency of merely natural pressure, and were in favor of the Holly system. The former, however, prevailed. About four miles from the town, in a north-east direction, there is a fine sheet of water. It is on the celebrated Snell farm, and has an area of about 45 acres and an average depth of 25 feet. Above this is a chain of smaller lakes, and all are fed by natural springs, so that the fountain of supply is limitless. In order to complete the work \$58,000 in debentures were issued, payable in twenty-nine years. These bear 5 per cent. interest, and were sold at a premium. The population of the town is 3,500, and its assessed value \$1,000,000. The rate this year is 16 mills on the \$1. The contract for the section near the town was let to Messrs. Turner & Burns, of London, and to Messrs. Adams & Penelton, of Brampton, for the remainder. The work of laying a 12-inch iron pipe four and a half miles, and seven miles of eight and six inch diameter, was satisfactorily done, and now there is a supply for 20,000 people, and a pressure of from 47 to 55 lbs. to the inch, capable of throwing streams far above any of the buildings in the town. There are 41 hydrants, and the fire brigade (a volunteer one) is composed of three hose companies, and one hook and ladder company. Mr. James Golding is chief, and his force is composed of fifty stalwart men.

The expenditure of \$58,000 by a population of 3,500 would seem at the first glance to indicate that a heavy burden had been assumed, but the debit account is offset by important advantages. Formerly men insured to the highest point, and paid from 2 to 2½ per cent. Now renewals are being taken at from ¾ to 1¼ per cent. The sum of \$13,000 was formerly paid in premiums, and now \$8,000 gives much better protection. The G.T.R. procured water service at this point at an expense of \$4,000, and now this is better done for \$1,200. The C.V.R. is negotiating also for water from the works, and thus already quite an income is assured. To this is to be added the rates for lawns, household purposes, etc.; and business men calculate that the interest will be fully met from these sources, and by the higher value of property. Already plans are being matured to apply the water power as a motor for printing offices and other establishments requiring a cheap and economical force. All this would seem to justify the boast of a leading citizen that "Brampton possesses the best and cheapest water system in the Province." No machinery can get out of order; no running expense will be necessary; and if ever the capacity needs to be increased it can be easily done.

Work was begun in October, 1881, and the opening took place in September, 1882. The hose reels and appurtenances are kept in different parts of the town, and thus no delay is occasioned by a long run to the point of danger.—*Globe*.