

THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY NEW DIRECTORS.

Mr. Geo. E. Drummond of Messrs. Drummond, McCall & Co., president of the Manufacturers' Association of Canada, and vice-president of the Montreal Board of Trade; and Mr. Frederick W. Thompson, vice-president and general manager of the Ogilvie Milling Company, have been appointed directors of the Canada Branch of the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company. The Canadian Board now consists of the following gentlemen:—W. J. Buchanan, Esq., Chairman; E. S. Clouston, Esq., Hon. Sir Alexandre Lacoste, Geo. E. Drummond, Esq., Fred W. Thompson, Esq.

FIRE AT LONDON, ONT.

By the fire which occurred at London, Ont., yesterday, in the boot and shoe factory of Messrs. Sterling Bros., we regret to learn that Chief Rowe of the Fire Brigade, met his death in the execution of his duty; also, that four firemen were more or less seriously injured. We understand that the following companies are interested:

	On Stock.	On Bldgs.
Royal.. . . .	\$5,000	\$5,000
Hand-in-Hand	5,000	5,000
		\$ 10,000
Queen City.. . . .	\$5,000	
National of Ireland.. . . .	5,000	
Northern	5,000	
		Machinery.
Home	5,000	\$1,000
Fire Insurance Exchange		3,500
Connecticut.. . . .	3,000	
Guardian.. . . .	7,000	
	\$35,000	\$4,500
	10,000	
	4,500	
Total Loss.. . . .	\$49,500	

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

The dispute between Russia and Japan is a modern manifestation of a movement that has been going on since the earliest ages of recorded time. Races of men are all more or less nomadic. The wandering spirit is more active in some than others, the intensity of it depending largely upon the conditions favourable or adverse to home expansion.

Russia has for generations, been alive with this spirit, prompting its rulers to acquire more and more territory. Since the centuries long, the hereditary ambition of Russia to acquire possession of Turkey has been checked, its rulers have looked for "fresh fields and pastures new," as the sphere for expansion.

The British and other European races have found such fields on this continent, and in the numerous colonies of England, Holland, France and Germany, in both hemispheres. Russia, however, is no col-

oniser, in the modern sense, as her land system and despotic form of government are wholly impossible to be transplanted to a distance away from the central government. Hence, expansion to Russia means the acquisition of its neighbour's territory. Russia is the Naboth of nations, ever coveting the "vineyard," the lands, the ports of some adjacent power.

The ice-bound European ports naturally lead to a desire to possess harbours free from this drawback. The opening desired was found in the Gulf of Pechili, where the other powers conceded that it would be reasonable for Russia to have a port open all the year round. Give an inch to Russians and an ell, or yard, will be demanded. The concession on the Gulf of Pechili whet their appetite for more, which is the key to the present difficulty with Japan. After gaining its first point, an attempt was made to seize a Japanese island, near the Korean Coast. That game was peremptorily stopped by a British Admiral, in 1861, threatening to prevent the outrage by force. Russia's aggression was checked in that direction, but, ever since, by intrigues, by diplomacy, by threats against China, there has been a constant movement, veiled and open, towards acquiring a naval base and territory in such a position and to such an extent as would place Japan in an embarrassing relation to her neighbour. In fact, it has been evident for a length of time that Russia was manœuvring to acquire an ascendancy in Eastern Asia, looking, in all probability, to the ultimate subjugation of Japan and China.

The first, the essential step of this aggressive policy would be the seizure of Korea. Were that accomplished, Japan would be in imminent peril, she would have an enemy ever at the door, ready to seize any favourable opportunity for attack, and, if possible, seizure.

Such is the situation Russia is aiming to create, and it is using the same tactics as were displayed for long years, when the design was to seize Constantinople as the initial step to the acquisition of Turkey. For generations, Russia kept that object in view; it was furthered by astute diplomacy, by bluffing the other powers, by professions of injured innocence, when they complained, and by fortifying Sebastopol and other positions as bases of operations that were contemplated yet repudiated, though such military works were wholly inexplicable on any other theory than a design to seize Turkey.

So, now, Russia has an object in view, which is, gaining ascendancy in the East of Asia. That object will be pursued until the other great powers give Russia clearly to understand that its aggressive policy in that region will no longer be tolerated.

The United States is vitally interested in this question, as the Philippine Islands might tempt the Russians, were they to acquire Japan.

The forces making for peace are as follows: The