

STANDARD MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.

Head Office, - MARKHAM, Ont.

Authorized Capital, - 500,000
Subscribed Capital, - 125,000

WM. ARMSTRONG, H. B. REESOR
President Man. Director
K. REESOR, FRANK EDMAND,
Inspector City Agent
Confederation Life Bldg.

The Metropolitan Fire Insurance Company

CASH-MUTUAL and STOCK
HEAD OFFICE, - TORONTO
Authorized Capital, \$500,000

D. HIBNER, Berlin, Pres. W. G. WRIGHT, Inspector.
W. H. SHAPLEY, Toronto, F. CLEMENT BROWN,
Vice President. Manager.

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which will be distributed throughout Manitoba and the Territories within the next few months? The general merchants in these provinces will handle almost all of this money. Make application to them for your share through their own and the only trade newspaper which interests them.
Within the past year 160,000 new possible buyers of your goods settled in the West. Will the retail merchant offer them what you have to sell?

ESTABLISHED 1882
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A WEEKLY FINANCIAL, COMMERCIAL &
GENERAL TRADE NEWSPAPER OF THE GREAT WEST.

THE HUGH C. MACLEAN CO., LIMITED,
Publishers, Winnipeg.

cargoes down by the end of next week. Very little unsold ore has been brought down and in a broad way it can be said there will be no unsold ore on Lake Erie docks this winter. In other words, some of the furnaces will be short of ore before the season opens next year. The Steel Corporation's reserve of ore is about as it was last year, which was approximately 3,500,000 tons. Trade conditions are undoubtedly improving, and if signs indicate anything whatever, much business will be done during the next two years. Better prices will be obtained for ore next season that this, as higher prices have already been given for blocks of ore over the price fixed by the ore association at the beginning of the year. This will make for a better freight rate. The present year has been a less one in that respect, even the larger vessels earning only a fair return upon the investment. Coal has been moving a little more freely than for some time past and the grain trade has been quite satisfactory.

UNION PACIFIC RAILWAY.

The annual report of the Union Pacific Railroad shows a record for the fiscal year, ending with last June, which the New York Journal of Commerce remarks is a noteworthy exception to the rule for that period. There is an increase of over \$4,200,000 in gross earnings above those of the previous year, and of less than \$1,686,723 in operating expenses, so that net earnings show an advance of more than \$2,500,000. This occurred when on most of our important railroad lines there has been a tendency toward reduced receipts and such an increase of expense as

to diminish the net returns. There was a moderate increase in expenditure for maintenance of way and structures and of equipment, and \$1,500,000 was spent from income upon betterments and additions, or \$500,000 more than the previous year, while the cost of conducting transportation showed an increase of less than \$460,000, with a substantial advance in traffic receipts. The physical condition of the property has been fully maintained, and an increase of traffic has been moved with decrease of 716,389 "locomotive miles," due to a larger average train load. The percentage of operating expenses to gross receipts was reduced for the rail lines from 52.32 to 51.52.

MONTREAL FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The fire committee of the Montreal City Council has been aroused to the need of infusing more system and thoroughness into the routine procedure of the Fire Brigade of that city. Some rules framed years ago and nominally in force have been, it appears, more honored in the breach than in the observance. These rules, it is now intended, shall be observed strictly. For example, one rule says that I. In order to familiarize themselves with all buildings in their districts, the captains shall make periodical inspections of all colleges, convents, churches, factories, hotels, theatres, warehouses, stores and other buildings used for the purposes of business, instruction or amusement, and keep a written record of all such inspections with a description and drawings of the buildings inspected.

2. They shall report in writing, in their respective districts, all places where fire-works, explosives and combustible materials are kept or sold without permit or contrary to law; all violations of the law concerning fire escapes and proper precautions against fire—accumulation of waste paper, rubbish, defective furnaces, etc., and buildings generally which may be considered dangerous from any cause; all encumbrance to hydrants and any abnormal condition of fire alarm boxes; also all buildings provided with automatic sprinklers and standpipes, with condition of same, location of valves and connections so that they may be reached promptly in any case of emergency.

3. They shall keep a record, on maps furnished for that purpose, of the number and location of hydrants, so that a correct record of the number of hydrants for the entire city can be kept on duplicate maps on file at headquarters.

4. All the foregoing reports, in each case, to be separate and in duplicate, giving a brief statement of the facts.

5. For the purpose of giving effect to the above, the city is divided in districts, called "Station districts," in which the respective captains shall perform the inspection duties assigned to them, with such help and assistance as they may require and obtain from the members under their command.

Each of said districts is comprised within boundaries and limits, and bears the corresponding number of the station in charge thereof. There are twenty-one such sta-

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tions. These regulations are eminently sensible; and if the Captains of Stations will obey them, and induce their subordinates to attend to their duties intelligently, industriously, with regard to the spirit as well as the letter of their instructions, the character of Montreal as a fire-waste city will be immensely raised, and her insurance rates can hardly but come down.

CENTRE STAR MINE.

The annual meeting of the Centre Star Mining Company was held in Toronto on Tuesday last. In his report, Mr. George Gooderham, the president, stated that the Centre Star and War Eagle mines, which have been operated under the same management, have so far produced 553,932 tons of ore, which has averaged about \$14.40 per ton, or a total value of \$8,076,661. Of this, more than \$4,872,834 has gone to pay railways and smelters for freight, treatment, refining and marketing charges. The balance, amounting to about \$3,200,000, has been received by the mines, but all of it has been disbursed for labor and supplies in connection with the mining of the ore and the development and equipment of the mines. This, while a good thing for the country, is scarcely satisfactory so far as the company is concerned, though it is hoped that with the new appliances recently installed, a change for the better will speedily make itself felt.

—The latest failure of one of the oldest banking and commission houses, says the Boston Herald, is explained by the statement that it found its commission business dull before the late boom in stocks began. Then it took to speculating on the bear side of the market. That covers the ground