

MONTREAL'S RECORD GRAIN EXPORT TRADE.

The export grain trade from the port of Montreal for the season 1913 has been a record one in the history of the trade and port, as the total shipments of all kinds of grain amount to 54,305,172 bushels, as compared with 38,918,264 for the season 1912, showing the handsome increase of 15,286,908 bushels. This to a large extent may be attributed to the remarkable improvements made within the past few years in the facilities of handling grain at this port, as the elevator capacity has been increased considerably and this, coupled with the cheaper all-water rates for grain from Fort William and Port Arthur and the splendid service obtainable from the different Lake lines of steamers, has induced exporters to forward all the grain they possibly could this way. But notwithstanding these facts some very large quantities were also exported via United States ports. Another very important factor in the export grain trade this year which must not be overlooked was the fact that the port was favored with the largest number of tramp vessels ever known owing to the good rates being paid for carrying grain. During the season thirty-seven of this class of vessels arrived, which carried 10,858,555 bushels of grain, divided up as follows: wheat, 5,393,319 bushels; oats, 1,084,774 bushels; barley, 1,937,338 bushels; and flaxseed, 2,443,124 bushels. The largest portion of the business was done in wheat, which amounted to 33,252,893 bushels, showing an increase of 2,281,836 bushels as compared with 1912, while flaxseed came next with a total of 8,253,544 bushels, an increase of 8,214,410 bushels; oats third with an increase of 731,653 bushels; and barley fourth with an increase of 3,966,550 bushels. There were only a few small lots of corn shipped owing to the fact that prices in the United States advanced to such a high level on the smaller yield of the crop of 1913 that exporters could not compete with other exporting countries of corn. The shipments of grain to Bristol or Avonmouth were the largest to any port and show an increase over last year of 5,778,989 bushels, while Hull comes second with an increase of 4,504,956 bushels, and Rotterdam third with an increase of 2,352,752 bushels. Strange to say the only port with any decrease of importance was Liverpool with 1,003,048 bushels.

OVER-INSURANCE SANCTIONED BY THE STATE.

Sir Gerald Ryan, general manager of the Phoenix Assurance Company of London, and a past president of the Institute of Actuaries, referred recently to a grave danger which has accrued as a result of the national health insurance in England. Speaking as the president of one of the local approved societies under the Act, he stated that the experience both of 1912 and of 1913 to date had shown that sickness claims were much in excess of the standard to which they were accustomed. There had been set up, he said, a system by which, in addition to the State Insurance, members were permitted to continue to have their full sickness allowance in their old societies. That obviously was a case of over-insurance. He emphasised the fact that it was known very well in every branch of insurance business that there was nothing so dangerous to the individual and the community as over-insurance. Yet under this Act over-insurance was not only permitted, but was virtually sanctioned by the State.

Sir Gerald said it could be easily understood that when a man got more money when he was sick than when in full work there must be a tendency, which could not be overcome in all cases, for him to continue to draw sick pay longer than he would under other circumstances. It was impossible to believe that the rate of sickness which would be experienced under conditions permitting double insurance could be anything like the same as that in force under the old voluntary arrangements, under which the friendly societies took care of themselves. He felt obliged to repeat very strongly that unless some changes were introduced in the operation of the National Insurance Act they would find the friendly societies becoming weaker than they were in the past. He attached the greatest importance to the fact that whereas the National Insurance Act was introduced with the object of helping forward and improving the friendly society system the tendency would be to drive friendly societies into greater financial embarrassment. The authorities should obtain statutory or other permission to discourage or prevent altogether duplication of sick pay. The strongest effort should be made by societies themselves to check malingerers, which otherwise would have disastrous results.

PRINCIPAL FIRES IN CANADA, INVOLVING LOSS OF \$5,000 AND OVER, NOVEMBER, 1913.

Date	Place	Description	Amount
1	Strome, Alta.	Business Bldgs. . .	\$40,000
3	St. Catharine's, Ont. . .	Freight Sheds. . .	50,000
3	Cobalt, Ont.	Mining Plant. . .	5,000
7	Oakville, Ont.	College Gymnasium and Barn. . .	35,000
9	Nipigon, Ont.	Business premises. . .	80,000
10	Cowansville, Que. . . .	Barn.	8,000
10	Marbleton, Que.	Dwelling house & barn.	5,000
11	Brockville, Ont.	Business premises. . .	15,000
12	Montreal.	Store.	10,000
12	Lions Head, Ont.	Mill.	30,000
13	Chilliwack, B.C.	Business block. . .	10,000
13	Cumberland, B.C. . . .	Saw mill and machinery.	100,000
13	St. Genevieve de Guilford, Que.	Residences.	5,000
16	St. Thomas, Ont.	Business building. . .	10,000
16	Vancouver, B.C.	Business premises. . .	*300,000
17	Moose Jaw, Sask.	Barn.	7,500
18	Mitchell, Ont.	Barns.	6,000
18	Oak Lake, Man.	Barn.	6,500
19	Montreal.	Store.	8,000
19	Montreal.	Residence.	10,000
21	Brighton, Ont.	Livery Barn.	5,000
21	St. Marie de Beauce, Que.	Conflagration. . . .	100,000
21	Quebec City.	Wholesale prov. . . .	14,000
23	Pincher Creek, Alta. . .	Conflagration. . . .	33,000
23	Moose Jaw, Sask.	Cold Storage.	*157,800
24	Montreal.	Dry goods store. . . .	10,000
25	Edmonton, Alta.	Business Block. . . .	200,000
25	Grouard, Alta.	Business premises. . .	18,000
26	Toronto.	Apartments.	8,000
26	Glace Bay, N.S.	Residence.	5,000
26	Toronto, Ont.	Store Building. . . .	6,000
27	Lucan, Ont.	Evaporator.	6,000
27	Wingham, Ont.	Business premises. . .	19,500
27	Vancouver, B.C.	Mfg. Block.	155,000
27	Montreal.	Store.	9,000
28	Vancouver, B.C.	Cannery.	50,000
29	Montreal.	Warehouse.	10,000
29	Rosthern, Sask.	Business block. . . .	5,000
29	Montreal.	Warehouse.	5,000

* Insurance Loss.