

anean, through the Dardanelles, viz., England, France, Austria, Italy and Turkey. It would be a great step towards more permanent peace conditions were the Mediterranean made a "mare clausum" to the war ships of all nations.

The House of Lords has passed a Bill to make the use of the metric system compulsory in Great Britain. They should have decimalised the currency first and seen how the country took to that change. It will take more than an Act of Parliament to abolish the weights and measures in use in the old land and substitute metric ones.

After consideration of the tariff of New Zealand, under which a preference was granted to Great Britain and Canada, the Dominion Government has decided that the tariff of New Zealand on the whole is as favourable to Canada as that of the Dominion is to the colony. An order in council has therefore been passed extending to New Zealand the Canadian preference of 33 1-3 per cent.

The disagreeable experience of the city in regard to the widespread annoyance caused by the vibration of the last pump installed for the water service department has caused the Chief Engineer to recommend that the contractor be required to remove the too lively machine, or, so improve its working as to stop its shaking the neighbourhood like an amateur earthquake. Is there any necessity for a pump in that position? Are there not highly efficient pumps installed in some large cities near the source of supply, quite away from any residential section?

The condition of a number of our principle streets is an abomination, a nuisance and a serious danger. The snow will not pack, so it remains six to eight inches deep, mixed with dirt, if the principal crossings were cleared, it would be a great relief to foot passengers.

#### FIRE AT LEAMINGTON, ONT.

By the fire which occurred on the 23rd instant, in a building block, the following companies are interested:—

North British and Mercantile.. . . .	\$2,000
Norwich Union .. . . .	2,000
Royal.. . . .	2,000
Metropolitan .. . . .	1,000
<b>Total Loss.. . . .</b>	<b>\$7,000</b>

#### FIRE AT TRENTON, ONT.

By the fire which occurred on the 19th instant, in the Eben James Cold Storage Warehouse, the following companies are interested:—

##### ON BUILDING.

Liverpool & London & Globe .. . . .	\$15,000
Union.. . . .	11,000
Royal.. . . .	10,000
<b>Loss nearly total .. . . .</b>	<b>\$36,000</b>

#### ON STOCK.

North British & Mercantile.. . . .	\$10,000
Atlas.. . . .	5,000
Alliance.. . . .	10,000
Norwich Union.. . . .	5,000
Commercial Union .. . . .	5,000
<b>Loss total.. . . .</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>

#### FIRE AT FRENCH & SMITH'S, MONTREAL.

On the 24th inst. a fire broke out in the boot store occupied by the above firm, doing extensive damage to both the stock and building. The insurance carried is as follows:—

##### ON BUILDING.

Phoenix, of London.. . . .	\$13,000
----------------------------	----------

##### ON STOCK.

Phoenix, of London.. . . .	\$5,500
North British & Mercantile .. . . .	4,000
Commercial Union.. . . .	1,500
Union.. . . .	2,000
Northern (Fixtures).. . . .	2,000

#### PERSONALS.

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY'S CANADIAN TRUSTEES.—In giving the names of the Canadian Trustees of the Guardian in THE CHRONICLE of 19th inst., the name of Mr. W. H. Beatty, K.C., Toronto, was inadvertently omitted. The trustees are Messrs. W. M. Ramsay, W. H. Beatty, K.C.; the Hon. Alphonse Desjardins, J. O. Gravel and R. Wilson-Smith.

## Notes and Items.

#### AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE LIFE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION of New York held its annual meeting to-day.

LOANS ON THEIR LIFE POLICIES are likely to be resorted to by many victims of the Baltimore conflagration.

CALGARY.—A sale was made at Toronto this week of Calgary Debentures, 4½ per cent., at 99½.

OWN INSURERS.—It would be interesting as well as instructive to learn how those persons stand at Baltimore, who belonged to the "own insurer" class of improvident tempters of fortune, or misfortune.

A NUMBER OF COMPANIES owe their escape from being involved in Baltimore only to the excessive tax imposed by Maryland upon fire companies. They are sure now that the show was not worth the price of admission.—"Rough Notes."

LLOYDS' underwriters are asking almost prohibitory rates on some risks, owing to the war. Shipments of all goods to ports in Japan or those of Russia in the East, are only insured against risk of seizure at rates varying from 3 to a much higher per cent. per month.

AN AMERICAN WRITER, in his work, "The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science," says: "The days of conflagrations are a thing of the past!! On this statement he leaves a protest against the rates charged by fire companies as excessive and unjust.