



INSURANCE SOCIETY

"Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait."

Vol. II., No. 7.
OFFICE: 102 St. Francois Xavier St. }

MONTREAL, JULY 20, 1882.

{ SUBSCRIPTION :
\$1.50 PER ANNUM.

The Office of "INSURANCE SOCIETY" IS IN THE

EXCHANGE BANK CHAMBERS,

No. 102 St. FRANCOIS XAVIER STREET, MONTREAL.

Annual Subscription (in advance) - \$1.50
Single Copies (in numbers less than 100) - 0.15

A committee from the Association of Fire Underwriters of Montreal are to meet the Fire Committee of the City Council to-morrow (Friday, 21st), to express dissatisfaction with present means for the extinguishing of fires, and to suggest means for the amelioration of appliances and management.

We hope to be able to record in our next issue that wise and practical propositions were made; that they were met in a friendly spirit, as coming from men who had the benefit of their city at heart, and who knew the real wants and could point out the necessary remedies for present shortcomings; and also that active steps had been taken by the Council to place Montreal in the front rank among cities as providing a thoroughly well equipped, well organized and well drilled Fire Brigade.

At last an association of fire underwriters is being formed in Montreal—adhesion having been agreed to by all companies interested—only three having added a proviso—one that the object of the association shall not be to establish a tariff, another that a tariff shall be framed, and the third and youngest member of the fraternity qualifying itself by stipulating that the association "behave itself properly."

To recommend moderation and forbearance to the members, may seem superfluous, and perhaps impertinent, but that the remains of old wrecks are yet visible; and, as in all things mundane, perhaps specially so in the present instance, the dangers of Scylla and Charybdis are still as real as in past ages.

Though good and tried men may be at the helm, it behoves each and all to assist to their utmost to promote good fellowship, fair dealing, and friendly mutual help—each one perhaps giving way in some matters of special benefit to his company's own interests, for the common good, which must most certainly redound to that company's benefit in a far greater measure, and with such satisfactory results as will by far outbalance the temporary loss submitted to.

For the credit of our city, the metropolis of Canada, for the credit of our general agents and managers acknowledged

to be of equal ability to those of other districts, for the credit of the standing of the local underwriters of Montreal—let it not be said that the harmonious, effective and profitable well-working of an association is beyond their capabilities—and for the sake of the benefit of their companies and of their own peace of mind, to say nothing of their pecuniary profit, let each and all resolve that the head-quarters of fire underwriting in the Dominion shall henceforth set a sterling example of uprightness and straight dealing to all the dependent organizations that will spring up through the country, and thus prove itself a common centre for such to rally round, and in times of danger to appeal to.

The New Brunswick Association has been in an active state since its inception in 1865. The Toronto Board holds its head high as a substantial organization. The London Board is struggling bravely for a successful existence. Surely the wave of consolidation and amalgamation that now seems to flow over the business communities of the whole world should not be allowed to ebb, before the keel of the Montreal Association of Fire Underwriters is so substantially laid, that any petty jealousies that may and will possibly arise will not be allowed to hinder the permanent establishment of that which will be a "good thing all around."

In another column we present a description of the compact in the West from the *Spectator*.

Among the many feasible ways of putting an end to the present unprofitable and disheartening state of affairs this appears to have the element of success.

How far it could be applied to the Canadian field with practical good results, we would like to hear discussed.

Would a few members of INSURANCE SOCIETY spend an odd hour now and again in perfecting a remedy for existing troubles, they would benefit themselves and probably help others.

No difficulty is so great that it cannot be met and conquered, but to us the general despondency prevailing has been the sorest trouble of all.

Now that the *laissez-aller* spirit seems to be giving way to a wave of determination, let that wave be crested by some few who will aim at devising practical schemes and then influence the rest to see them realized.

To any such practical men we shall gladly offer the use of our columns, the more so as INSURANCE SOCIETY was established with the idea that many would be glad of an opportunity to advance feasible propositions for the general well-being of their class, and for the welfare and active progress of their profession.