

they would take precious good care to buy out the rest of the important shareholders of the Commercial at a very large discount. And so the end was accomplished by the little ring who pulled the wires, while the duped stood gazing in amazement at the clumsy legerdemain, without wit enough to discover the tricks of the necromancers.

We question the legality of this disgraceful transaction, and would strongly urge it upon the shareholders to learn in a Court of Equity, by what authority the Directors advised the acceptance of an offer from the Merchants' Bank, which was not nearly so advantageous as the one made by Mr. King on behalf of the Bank of Montreal. The people of Upper Canada were deeply interested in reviving the Commercial Bank. It has now fallen into the hands and under the direction of men who are entirely devoted to Montreal interests; and the ruling spirit of this new Bank is one who is familiar to the people of Canada—and not particularly as a friend—in connection with the heavy drafts he made upon the public exchequer in the shape of enormous ocean steamship subsidies. It is anything to us but a cause of congratulation that our largest Bank in Ontario, with all its extensive business connections, has had to succumb to the wily manipulations of Montreal interests, when it is apparent on the face of it that it was quite possible for the Commercial to have opened its doors and resumed business with every probability of success.

DOMINION STOCK.

The investment by the Province of Ontario, of \$500,000 in the new Dominion Stock, will show the foreign holders of our securities that we have confidence in ourselves. The shock that joint stock enterprise received lately has undoubtedly caused a considerable quantity of money to seek the least hazardous security, and the proposal of the Finance Minister furnishes what may be considered an absolute guarantee to trustees and guardians, against legal responsibility, in placing out trust funds in their possession. The Government advertisement which appears in another column furnishes full particulars.

An article on Life Insurance, which was crowded out of this number, will appear in our next.

Insurance.

AMERICAN LIFE OFFICES.—Commissions paid to agents of the undermentioned American Life Assurance corporations for 1866:—

Etna.....	\$418,068
Berkshire.....	25,406
Connecticut Mutual.....	530,898
Charter Oak.....	230,790
Mutual (N.Y.).....	686,622
Manhattan.....	126,421
Union Mutual.....	124,816
Phoenix.....	84,029
Security.....	66,59

The latter Company paid \$18,000 dividends to stockholders.

FIRE RECORD.—Quebec, Jan. 18th.—A house on the Turley market; damage but slight.

Bosquet Township, Dec. 29.—Holbrook's extensive saw mill. No particulars.

Toronto, Jan. 18.—House on Vansaul street, frame; damage \$150, insured \$600.

Dartmouth, N. S.—A dwelling house; the work of an incendiary; partially insured in the Queen.

Township of Seymour.—Barn of Mrs. Aldin; a span of horses and a colt burned, besides other articles. Loss \$900; insured for \$600.

Chatham, Jan. 6.—House occupied by Jas. Griffin, partially burned. Insurance sufficient to cover damages. In the same locality, the house of D. McEachran; some insurance.

Kingston, Jan. 20.—The rectifying house of the Kingston Brewery and Distillery. A quantity of the liquor on the premises took fire and set fire to two other buildings, and the barque Breden, lying at the wharf, which was considerably damaged. One of the buildings contained 3,000 bushels of corn. Cause, supposed to be incendiary. The loss will be heavy. Insurance not stated.

Quebec.—A correspondent reports several recent fires. One was in the Parliament house, owing to a leakage of gas. It was speedily extinguished. Darbison's House, St. Rock's, was consumed; loss \$960; insured in the Western of Canada. James Ward's sailors' boarding house; furniture insured in the British American for \$800. The house was greatly damaged by water, and was insured in the British American and the London Ins. Corporation.

NAME OF COMPANY.	Incorporated.	Capital subscribed.	Stock paid up.	Dividend on Stock paid in 1866.	Rate per cent paid to stockholders.		Per cent of expenses to cash income.	Per cent of total expenditure to total cash income, including death claims paid.	
					of 48 83 3/4	of 48 83 3/4			
Etna Life.....	1853	\$150,000	60,600	\$8,862	\$14 62 1/2	\$81 88	\$51 64		
Berkshire.....	1851	53,000	53,000	3,710	7 00	24 10	48 50		
Connecticut Mutual.....	1846	none.	none.	8,000	8 00	18 00	55 26		
Charter Oak.....	1850	200,000	100,000	no report.	no report.	30 35	54 00		
Continental Life.....	1862	350,000	180,200	no report.	no report.	17 09	not reported.		
Mutual Life.....	1842	none.	100,000	32,000	32 00	30 39	42 58		
Manhattan.....	1850	100,000	100,000	6,000	37 50	31 13	53 47		
Phoenix.....	1851	100,000	16,000	295,500	2,955 00	33 74	65 00		
Union Mutual.....	1848	100,000	none.						

FIRES AND LOSSES IN BALTIMORE IN 1867.

Chief Engineer Stewart, of the Fire Department, in his Annual Report, states that during the past year there were 193 fire alarms, classed as follows: Actual fires, 153; chimneys, 10; tests, 7; from falling walls, 2; explosions, 1; smoke, 3; outside city limits, 7; telegraph operators testing, 2, and false, 8. The aggregate loss resulting from the fires is estimated at \$292,545, of which nearly \$200,000 resulted from the fires at the large rectifying establishment of Messrs. Ross & Co., on Commerce street, and the extensive chemical works of Messrs. Davison & Co., on Fort avenue. Of the fires, 91 caused damage to an amount not

exceeding \$100; 37 from \$100 to \$1,000; 19 from \$1,000 to \$10,000; 3 from \$10,000 to \$25,000; 2 from \$25,000 to \$50,000, and 1 from \$50,000 to \$100,000.—B. Underwriter.

MARINE INSURANCE.—An action was brought in the Superior Court, Quebec, by the Commercial Bank, against the Sun Mutual Insurance Company, on a policy of marine insurance entered into by the defendants on the 1st of November, 1865, upon a ship called the *Thurcaston*, on a voyage from Quebec to Queens-town, &c., warranted to tow to Bic, or pay one per cent. additional premium, and to sail on or before the 15th of November. The policy was effected by Barry & Co., for the benefit of the plaintiffs, and was for the sum of \$15,000, the ship being valued at \$36,000. The period for sailing was subsequently extended by Mr. Theodore Hart, the agent of the defendants, to the 21st of November. The *Thurcaston* was loaded with a cargo of wood at Dinning's booms, and was ready for sea on the 18th of November—the 19th was a Sunday, and on the 20th she was ready to sail, having all her provisions on board, and about half of her crew, and a pilot; the remainder of the crew were all ready to embark, and were waiting for that purpose at the Lower Town market, from which place they were to embark as the vessel passed the town. She was then towed from her moorings, and after proceeding about a quarter of a mile, grounded on a bank. This detained her a while, and when again afloat, it was impossible to proceed further, in consequence of a severe gale, which continued for several days. As soon as she could proceed, she was towed out of port and proceeded to sea, and afterwards, when in mid-ocean, became water-logged and was totally lost. The judge, in charging, said the whole case turned upon the simple fact, which was for the jury to decide, whether or not the *Thurcaston*, when she first started, was ready for sea? It had been argued that this was a question of law, but clearly it was not so. If the gentlemen of the jury, therefore, were of opinion that the sailing from Dinning's booms was a *bona fide* start, then their answer to the questions put them could not be otherwise than in the favor of the plaintiffs; but if, on the contrary, their opinion was the opposite, then, the defendants should be benefited by their answer. The jury then retired to answer the questions submitted to them, and after a short delay returned, giving their answers unanimously, and for the plaintiffs.

NEWFOUNDLAND SAVINGS BANK.—This important institution is, we are glad to say, in a flourishing condition. Ever since its establishment in the summer of 1864, it has been gradually growing in public usefulness and favor. On the 1st of January, 1868, the sum in the Bank, on deposit, was £14,428 6s 11d, compared with £11,205 at the corresponding period last year. The amount deposited during the past 12 months was £8,895, and the amount withdrawn £6,697. Total interest paid depositors, £382 2s 6d; total interest paid by the Government on deposits £735. Number of depositors 580. The Savings Bank is established in connection with the Provincial Treasury, and is open for business on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. It is intended for the investment of the poor man's savings as well as for the pennies of childhood and youth, but all classes of the community avail themselves of the many advantages which it offers. It is a capital place to keep small sums of money not required for immediate use. The rate of interest allowed is 5 per cent; the smallest deposit is 1s 6d, and the largest, to bear interest, £100. The interest on deposits may be added to the principal quarterly. £10,000 of the moneys in the Savings Bank may at any time be invested in Government securities yielding to the Bank interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum.—*Patriot*.

COTTON MILL IN MERRICKVILLE.—The Merrickville *Chronicle* announces that a Joint Stock Company is now in course of formation to establish a cotton factory in that village. The capital is placed at \$40,000, in shares of \$100 each, and about \$10,000 has already been subscribed. A meeting will be held sometime during the present month.