

yard." It appears that a park commissioner from Hartford, Conn., United States, has been consulted about this shed, who has approved of it from an artistic point of view. Why a Hartford official should have been consulted over erecting a rustic harbour or shed on Mount Royal is a mystery. Has Montreal no citizens equal to the great responsibility of spending \$1,500 on such an elaborate, architectural structure as a rustic shed? Why not have advertised for drawings and plans and submitted them to the ratepayers? As the "Look-Out" is only and needs only to be a space of ground boarded and roofed over, the plan would have had to be a bird's-eye view, as visitors see nothing of the shed except the posts, which are well within the powers of several of our local architects to design without calling in an American.

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The Grand Trunk Pacific scheme has been discussed in Parliament at several sittings with the result of materially weakening the enthusiasm of many of its supporters. The more the project is examined from a financial and business standpoint the less it is approved. It would be a bonanza to contractors and their friends, but their gain would be no compensation to the country for the acquisition of a railway that would be a perpetual sink of national revenue, and such a reproach to Canada as would lower its credit.

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"The News," Toronto, which is spoken of as the organ of the projected Grand Trunk Pacific, estimates that the expenditure involved in building the Winnipeg-Moncton section of the line will add \$75,400,000 to the debt of Canada. In addition to this the "News" states that the Grand Trunk will be aided to the extent of \$21,740,000, making in all an outlay by the Canadian Government of \$97,148,000. The compensation for this enormous outlay is thus stated by the ablest journalistic advocate of the project:

"In return for this great subvention to a group of private capitalists and this great addition to the public debt we shall have a second railway, built up to a high standard, from ocean to ocean, and eighteen hundred miles of road which, in forty years, will become the absolute property of Canada."

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Whitaker Wright, the promoter and director of the London and Globe Corporation, the collapse of which created such a sensational scandal in England, and who fled the country to escape prosecution, was arraigned at the Guild Hall Police Court, London, on 5th inst., and released on bail for \$250,000, half provided by himself, so he came out of the wreck with more salvage than some of the stockholders.

## PERSONALS.

MR. T. H. PONSONBY, assistant secretary of the Alliance Assurance Co., London, England, who is visiting Canada for the first time, called at the office of THE CHRONICLE a few days ago. He was greatly impressed with the very handsome structures recently erected in Montreal by insurance companies, and with the general appearance of solidity and business aspect of the Metropolitan City of the Dominion. Before returning home he will visit Vancouver and some of the foreign branches of his Company.

## Notes and Items.

### At Home and Abroad.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 30th July, 1903: Clearings—\$1,608,421. Corresponding week last year, \$1,657,568.

THE BRITISH AMERICA AND THE WESTERN, of Toronto, have suspended operations in South Dakota, on account of the new anti-compact law.

THE INSURANCE LOSS by the recent fire at the Omaha Packing Company's premises, Chicago, has been fixed at \$189,661; the total insurance was \$914,000.

PACKING HOUSE RATES have been advanced in Chicago, in some cases 100 per cent., owing to heavy losses and defective equipment of these establishments.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Local Fire Insurance agents holds its annual Convention in Hartford, Oct. 20, 21 and 22. Mr. John C. North, New Haven, is chairman.

ANOTHER FIGURE PUZZLE.—The Australasian "Review" is responsible for the worry this puzzle will cause. So, place the figures "1" to "9" in columns that the whole will add up to 100.

THE EXTRACT FROM BROOKFIELD'S LIFE given in a recent issue re-appears in a Toronto paper without acknowledgment. There is a splendid free library in Toronto; why, therefore, should not our contemporary do his own literary gleanings?

MOTOR-CASE INSURANCE is developing in England, covering every kind of accident that injures a machine. Several life and accident companies on this side are declining to insure the "chauffeurs," or drivers of automobiles, others impose extra rates and write risks for only limited amounts.

QUITE AN OLD BUSINESS.—A classical contemporary refers to a story by Juvenal, who is not always trustworthy, that in old Rome speculators were in the habit of buying houses that were on fire, as well as those exposed to danger by a neighbouring house being in flames. The practice has continued to this day. Property on fire is being sold continually to insurance companies.

MR. LESSARD, so well known as Superintendent of the public baths on St. Helen's Island, in this city, who has saved over 20 persons from drowning, was drowned last week when trying to rescue an over-venturesome swimmer. This person, having got into the current of the St. Lawrence, was being carried away, and struggled so desperately that he overpowered Mr. Lessard, and both were lost. A public tribute should be paid to this brave fellow who sacrificed his life for another, as he had shown his readiness to do over a score of times.