

TROUBLE OVER SETTLEMENTS AT SAN FRANCISCO.

THE GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA APPEALS TO HEAD OFFICE OF FIRE COMPANIES.

The problems presented by the conditions which were created in San Francisco by earthquake and conflagration were unprecedented.

Every conflagration of itself creates conditions that are more or less complicated, when, however, a conflagration bursts out as a direct consequence of an earthquake, it is inevitable that the two calamities in combination should cause very serious difficulties in regard to the settlement of claims under fire policies.

Whether any particular building was ruined directly by the violence of earthquake and then was set on fire by the collapse of the interior is a question presenting a very hard and in more cases an insoluble problem.

The property owners have wrecks of buildings before their eyes which bear far more decisive evidences of damage by fire than by earthquake. It is not unnatural for them, being dominated by self-interest, to attribute their entire loss to the conflagration, and under this belief to pay little regard to the direct evidence, or the high degree of probability, that the earthquake really created conditions which led to the fire. On the other hand the insurance agents of San Francisco have a clear line of duty laid down, they are bound to recognize only such claims as are clearly within the lines of their respective companies, policies and the local laws.

The Governor of California has been so much impressed with the difficulties of the insurance situation that he has addressed the following circular to the home offices of insurance companies:

"The insurance condition here is intolerable, and we make our first appeal to the home offices. San Francisco has been a most profitable field for insurance companies. Our citizens have paid their premiums, and now demand that their losses be paid. Every means have been taken by certain agents to wring unfair settlements from a stricken people. They have refused the privilege of removing debris where there is no salvage, in order to coerce settlements. In very few instances did the earthquake destroy a material part of any building, and these cases can be easily isolated, and should not prejudicially affect the rights of others and cause delay.

Certain agents consider the companies' bank account only and not our rights and are trying to force horizontal cuts, which our people will strenuously resist. We have decided to organize such resistance in order to save individuals from imposition. No doubt our people would accord a reasonable time for companies to realize on assets if definite settlements are made. We appeal in our misfortune to your manhood, business integrity, and sense of justice to interpose your veto on the disreputable tactics of certain agents who are irritating our people to the point of exasperation. In the name of the people of city and state a speedy declaration of policy and settlement is demanded. Please wire reply.

"GEO. C. PARDEE.

'Governor of California.

STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES.

Wednesday, p.m., June 20, 1906.

Montreal Street showed continued strength this week, about 6,000 shares being dealt in, while Montreal Power, which has been gradually improving in price had a sharp advance this afternoon, selling up to 96%. Rumours of developments favourable to the stock are rife, and it is generally felt that once the franchise question is settled, the stock will go on a 5 per cent. basis. Over 6,500 shares of Power changed hands during the week more than half of this volume of business being done in this afternoon's short session. Apart from Montreal Street, Toronto Railway was the only active traction issue, and it improved in price. It is generally thought that Canadian securities such as Street, Power, Toronto Railway and the Iron securities, in the natural course of events are booked for higher figures. The steadily increasing earnings of all these Companies when viewed through the general prosperity of the country, make it seem certain that it is only a question of time when purchasers, even at the present somewhat higher level, will reap satisfactory benefits.

The international stocks, such as C. P. R. Detroit Railway, etc., were to a large extent neglected, and in no case did the transactions total 1,000 shares for the week. Twin City Rights are in fair demand at 1½, which is equivalent to 111¼ for the New Stock. Detroit Railway holds steady around 94 to 95, but the business in this security has for some time past been small.

The outlook for the stock market from a monetary standpoint seems encouraging and it is likely that money will be easier during the next few months. Some tightness may be looked for in the fall, but the demand for stock market requirements has been to a certain extent provided for by large borrowings of time money.

• • • • •

The bank rate for call money continues to rule at 5½ per cent., and supplies are still easier. The rate for call money in New York to-day was 3½ per cent. while in London the rate was 2 per cent.

The quotations for money at continued points are as follows:—

	Market.	Bank
Paris.....	2½	3
Berlin.....	3½	4½
Amsterdam.....	3½	4½
Vienna.....	3½	4½
Brussels.....	3½	4

• • • • •

C. P. R. closed with 160½ bid an advance of a half point over last week's close and 54 shares comprised the trading for the week. The new stock closed with 157 bid. The earnings for the second week of June show an increase of \$207,000.

• • • • •

There was only one sale of Soo Common this week, 25 shares changing hands at 157¼.

• • • • •

Montreal Street advanced to 283 and closed with 283 bid a further gain of 1½ points for the week. The stock was second in point of activity this week and 5,947 shares were involved in the trading. The earnings for the week ending 16th inst. show an increase of \$9,058.15 as follows:

		Increase.
Sunday.....	\$8,391.92	\$3,878.26
Monday.....	8,909.69	897.52
Tuesday.....	9,063.93	775.54
Wednesday.....	9,018.77	841.59
Thursday.....	9,272.62	508.00
Friday.....	9,298.29	483.77
Saturday.....	11,059.60	1,673.47