

The total loss on the Fifth Avenue Theatre, burned in New York on Jan. 3, was \$100,000, insurance \$57,500. The loss on the Sturtevant House by the same fire was \$12,000 on furniture and \$15,000 on building, the total insurance involved being \$320,000.

It is said that an effort will be made by the assessment endowment crowd, aided by hungry politicians in Massachusetts, to legislate Insurance Commissioner Merrill out of office by providing for an insurance "commission" of three. We don't think the plan will work.

And yet another.—The City Mutual Fire of London, Ont., organized within a few years with such a flourish of trumpets, has gone into liquidation. On the 13th inst. the directors deemed it prudent to take advantage of the winding-up act, and decided to ask for the appointment of a receiver.

The loss to insurance companies by the fire on Craig street near Montcalm, which occurred on Wednesday morning of this week, will be about \$43,000. The total loss is probably \$60,000. Wooden structure, deep snow and extreme cold combined to neutralize the efforts of the firemen.

The chief of the fire department at Kansas City is in favor of lighting, not only the engine houses, but the vehicles employed by the department, with electricity. He has been using on his buggy two incandescent lamps, with powerful reflectors, connected with a storage battery under the seat, with great satisfaction.

The Connecticut Fire insurance company, as shown by its recent annual statement, has made good progress during the past year. It shows an increase in assets, in re-insurance reserve, and in surplus, these items now standing as follows: Assets, \$2,500,392; re-insurance reserve, \$807,323; surplus to policyholders \$1,568,904. The cash capital is \$1,000,000.

Winnipeg is not the coldest place in the world, judging from the meteorological reports for December. The mean temperature for December, 1890, was 13.7 degrees above zero, and for December, 1889, it was 7.9 degrees. The December maximum for 1890 was 44 degrees above and the minimum 24 degrees below zero. The highest and lowest for December, 1889, were 57 degrees and 26 degrees, respectively.

The contest so long pending over the enormous tax on insurance premiums in the State of Louisiana has just been ended by a decision of the Supreme Court, sustaining the tax as legal, though pronouncing it to be a hardship. As this tax is 12 per cent. on premiums of companies of other States and countries and but 1/2 of one per cent. on home companies, the effect will be to drive out all but possibly a few of the largest and strongest companies.

A well attended meeting of the Montreal Life Underwriters Association was held on Tuesday last, at which nine new members were elected. A committee, consisting of Messrs. Corthorn, Michaud and Cowley, was appointed to meet in consultation with the various managers as to ways and means looking to anti-rebate legislation. Steps were also taken to incorporate the Association. Messrs. W. Fitzgerald, Dominion superintendent of insurance, W. Campbell, of the Budget, and R. Wilson Smith, of the INSURANCE & FINANCE CHRONICLE, were elected honorary members. Most of the managers in the Province have now become associate members, and the Association is making good progress. Keep the ball rolling.

In our article entitled "Walkerton on Insurance Monopolies," in our last issue, referring to the amount paid by insurance companies for the great St. John fire of 1877, the types made us state the amount at "about a quarter of a million dollars" instead of "six and a quarter," etc. The exact amount paid was \$6,358,329.

We notice that the Montreal shareholders of the Glasgow and London insurance company have petitioned the Superior Court in insolvency for its liquidation under the Winding-up Act. The petition states that the number of shares held in Canada is 2,020, on which £1,108 is paid up. The petition was granted, and Mr. Frank Donovan, former bookkeeper of the company, was appointed provisional guardian.

The January dividends of the Hartford joint stock insurance companies were as follows:—

Aetna Fire	5 p c., Quarterly.	National Fire	5 p. c Semi-an'l.
Phoenix Fire	3 1/2 " "	Orient Fire	5 " "
Aetna Life	5 " Semi-an'l.	Hartford Stm. Boiler	5 " "
Connecticut	4 " "	Conn. Gen'l. Life	4 " "
Hartford	10 " "	Travelers	8 " "

The total of dividends paid by these companies was \$706,500 on \$12,150,000 of capital.

Finch's Insurance Digest for the year ending October, 1890, being volume III of the series, as published by *Rough Notes* of Indianapolis, has been received. The arrangement, binding and style of the *Digest* are uniform with the previous volumes. We can only repeat our former commendations of this work, which covers in brief space, convenient for reference, a large number of law cases of interest to the entire insurance fraternity.

The growth of fire insurance may be strikingly seen by contrasting the amount of risks written in the United States and Canada in 1880 and in 1889. The combined total for 1880 was \$7,493,684,742, and for 1889 \$12,193,377,146, showing an increase in the ten years of nearly 63 per cent. The increase in Canada, in round numbers, was \$187,000,000, and in the United States \$4,500,000,000, considering only the companies reporting to the New York insurance department.

The insurance departments of New York and Connecticut having refused to license the American Casualty and Security company of Baltimore, organized last year with \$1,000,000 paid capital and \$500,000 surplus funds, the Maryland insurance commissioner, acting under the retaliatory law, such as most of the States are provided with, has in turn refused to renew the licenses of all the New York and Connecticut casualty and accident companies. A pretty fight seems to be inaugurated.

An extensive fire occurred on Monday night last in this city in the Angus and adjoining buildings on Craig street, occupied largely by printing and lithographing establishments. The total loss on buildings and stock will probably prove to be not far from \$70,000, on which the insurance loss was as follows: Phoenix of London, \$5,500; Guardian, \$6,750; L. L. & G., \$9,375; Northern, \$6,250; N. British, \$1,500; Western, \$1,125; Citizens, \$5,600; Atlas, \$1,225; Queen, \$4,250; Royal, \$250; Commercial Union, \$3,063; Norwich Union, \$1,500; Ins Co. N. America, \$1,650; Lancashire, \$2,500; Imperial, \$500; Fire Ins. Asso., \$500; British America, \$375; Aetna, \$500; Manchester, \$2,500; Phoenix of Hartford, \$2,500; National of Ireland, \$1000; Royal Canadian, \$250; Scottish Union, \$250. Total, \$58,413.