

## Insurance.

**FIRE RECORD.**—Three Rivers, April 2.—A fire broke out in the workshop of the American mills, owned by Stoddard & Co., which was totally destroyed. The fire then communicated with the new mill. Fortunately, through the exertions of the fire brigade, the large mill was saved. The wind carried the burning flakes into the piles of sawn lumber and some outbuildings, and it is impossible to say where it will end. Fifteen million feet of lumber, one mill, workshop, stables, dwellings, and offices were consumed. The property was insured with the Royal for about \$78,000.

Montreal, April.—The bakery of Joseph Lantier, in rear of 379 Jacques Cartier street, was destroyed by fire. It originated between the ovens and the roof of the building, which is a one-story one. The damage done is considerable.

South Monaghan Township, March 27.—Dwelling house of James Collins was consumed. The fire originated from the stove.

Rawdon Township, March 24.—The barn and outbuildings of Matthew Norris, with their contents, including all the hay, grain, farming implements, and a pair of fine horses, were consumed. Mr. Norris was partially insured.

Lindsay, March 24.—A fire broke out in G. M. Smart's planing, shingle and carding mill, which destroyed nearly all of the contents. The fire is supposed to have originated from the smoke stack. The loss is estimated at about \$6,000, upon which there is no insurance.

Mount Vernon, Ont., March 25.—The British Hotel, in Bishopgate, near this place, owned and occupied by Mr. Joseph Gillespie, was consumed by fire, which broke out in a room above the bar, and before assistance arrived, the devouring element wrapt the whole buildings in flames. The family had a narrow escape with their lives. Only a small portion of the furniture was saved. Loss, \$3,000; insured for \$1,600.

Morpeth, Ont., March 28.—House of Daniel and John Cameron, were destroyed with contents. The Messrs. Cameron were absent at the time, and the only occupants were their aged father and their two younger brothers, aged 17 and 18 respectively. The father and elder boy escaped by jumping from a window; but it is thought that the younger one got confused, and in making an attempt to descend by the stairs, fell into the midst of the flames.

Petrolia, April 1.—A fire consumed the engine house and derrick of Mr. James Perkin's new well, situated about a mile north-west of the G. W. R. depot. Two men in charge, named C. Swan, and J. McNeil, were severely burned; but it is hoped they will recover. It seems the fire originated by the ignition from the derrick lantern of the gas from the well. The loss is about \$1,000.

—Mr. Thomas Drewry has been appointed agent of the National Life Insurance Company of the United States for Toronto, and is pushing its business here.

**OVER INSURANCE.**—The Chicago Chronicle in treating this subject says that the best precaution that can be adopted against incendiarism is the persistent refusal, under all circumstances and against all blandishments, to grant insurance for more than seventy-five per cent. of the ascertained value of the property insured.

Of all the causes of incendiarism, the most prolific is over-insurance. To such an extent has this become the rule, such and so great is the destruction of property because of it, that if the companies themselves do not act promptly in the matter, and correct their evil practices, our legislators will not only be justified in acting, but compelled, by the pressure of public opinion, to act, and act efficiently.

Insurance was designed to be the friend and protector of industry and commerce. But if it is converted into a premium upon crime, it becomes the enemy of both. Instead of standing to the public in the relation of a beneficent, and kindly

helper to all good enterprise, it is made to present itself as the destroyer, not alone of property, but of morals.

The men who consent to this degradation of insurance are scarcely less guilty than the poor wretch who avails himself of it to make ready sale of his depreciated property to a cash customer by the agency of fire. If, by the side of the incendiary, arraigned before the bar of justice, there stood the reckless corporation which had supplied him with a motive to commit the crime, so strong as to almost make them partners in his guilt, and society, in the persons of the court and jury, were to do justice to itself, upon both would fall the stroke of its avenging hand. We do not say that both are equally guilty, but folly may be as dangerous as guilt.

## RESPONSIBILITY OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS.

To any one conversant with the responsibilities and duties of the Medical Examiner, it is clear that the success of the Company depends to a very great extent on the skill and fidelity with which his examinations are made. On the accuracy of his reports depend the acceptance of the risk and the issue of the policy. An obligation is contracted by the Company on the faith of his recommendation, and on him rests the onus of adding to the Company's success, or of ignorantly or carelessly exposing it to unnecessary loss, or worse still, fraudulently conspiring to steal from widow and orphan's inheritance, by palming off bad risks on the Company.

The records of our Life Companies afford abundant evidence of collusion between the agent and medical examiner. A remarkable instance occurred in the City of Alleghany, in this State, last year, which is a case in point. One Conrad Gorbach, a worn out cotton spinner was known by interested parties to have an Insurance of \$2,000 on his life in a leading Hartford Company. The man was broken down in health and circumstances, and was totally unfit for Life Insurance. In the early part of '69, he was suffering from more than one malady, and yet at the very time, through the connivance of the German Agent and the local German Physician of a leading New York Company, aided by a person who advanced the premiums, policies to the extent of \$25,000 additional insurance were effected on his life, on spurious medical reports. The fraud, however, was discovered in time to save the Company, and through the false delicacy of the officers, the swindling Agent and Physician were allowed to go scot free. Here was a breach of trust on the part of the Medical Examiner, which would have resulted in a loss of \$25,000 to the honest policy-holders.

The next case we have on record is that of Edward Delaney, of Boston. This man was in an advanced state of consumption, had a violent cough, congestion of the liver, and other diseases in 1863, at which time policies for \$10,000 were obtained from the Manhattan Life Insurance Co., of New York, on the faith of an untruthful Medical Report. These Policies were all assigned to Dr. Robt. White, of Boston, and paid to him in due course on the death of Delaney in 1865. Subsequently however, it came to be known that the transaction was a fraud, and the Company sued Dr. White for the amount paid under the policies, obtaining a verdict for the full amount with interest. The action of the Company in thus vindicating the integrity with which the interests of its policy-holders are protected is praiseworthy, and doubtless will be a warning for all time to come to dishonest agents and corrupt examiners of the Manhattan Life Insurance Company.

That cases of collusion between agents and medical examiners, are neither "few nor far between" is a well-known fact, and the mortuary experience of some of our best companies prove it. The evil exists and it must be remedied, and we know of no better remedy than that of secure

ing the best medical talent in every locality. Such men fully realize the responsibility of their position, and having a character at stake will not risk it. They know that they are the guardians of the company's interests, and that they are bound by every consideration of integrity and honor to protect those interests, and that if they betray them, they are aiding in an attempt to bring ruin on the widow and the orphan.

A safe rule would be at all times for the company to select its own medical examiner without any choice on the part of the agent, and as before suggested to get the best physician, whatever be his price, who has a reputation to sustain, the motto of whose life is "unbending honor and unswerving truth."—Philadelphia Underwriter.

**MONTREAL WAREHOUSING COMPANY.**—A Montreal paper says, this Company, having a wealthy proprietary, was organized some months ago, mainly with a view to afford increased trade facilities for the warehousing of goods, by issuing negotiable and transferable warehouse receipts therefor, by insuring the same on moderate terms, and by making advances to the owners when required. The Company purchased those extensive stores on the Canal Basin, formerly belonging to Mr. Young, and has so thoroughly renovated them as almost to amount to a re-building of them. It also has the building, or acquiring by purchase, of other and more extensive premises under consideration. The first regular meeting of the Company since its organization, was held on Saturday last, for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors, and of maturing plans to meet the unusually heavy business expected during the coming season. The following gentlemen were elected Directors:—Messrs. Hugh Allan, C. J. Brydges, E. H. King, Henry Starnes and Thomas Cramp. At a Board meeting, held immediately after, Mr. Allan was elected President, and Mr. Cramp, Vice-President.

**SUCCESSFUL ROAD STEAMERS.**—It seems that the plan of covering the driving-wheels of a steam omnibus with a thick tire of India-rubber has been found to obviate some of the most serious objections to using steam for locomotion on common roads, and steam wagons with this improvement are now manufactured in England. An English journal thus notices the operation of this new locomotive: There was seen on the streets of Leith, a 10 horse power road steamer with two companions of equal size is tow to the docks for shipment. Although the roads were in the worst possible condition, being thick with greasy mud, the journey to the ship's crane was effected so smoothly and easily that it did not offer a single incident for description. All that can be said of it is that it was the simplest performance in the world. The road steamer, which was acting as a tug to its two mates, was exhibiting its maiden efforts, as it had only just been completed and had never been out before. It is a 10 horse power engine, nominal, but can develop up to 30 horse power. Its weight on the load is from eight to nine tons. The diameter of the wheels is six feet; the breadth of the India-rubber tire is 15 inches with a thickness of 4 inches. The manufacturing firm building these steamers have already received numerous orders for the new road locomotive.

**NOVA SCOTIA, CROWN LANDS.**—The sale of Crown Lands in 1869 amounted to \$37,173.49, against \$28,736.28 in 1868—an increase of \$8,437.21. During the year there were 432 applications sent in, applying for grants to the extent of 84,703 acres; 405 applications were granted covering 64,763 acres. The total proceeds for the year amounted to \$37,684.72; the expenses of the office amounted to \$13,794.40; leaving a nett proceeds for the year \$23,890.32, against \$14,853.41 in 1868—an increase of \$9,036.91.

—The County Council of the Lake of Two Mountains has voted \$60,000 for the Canada Central Railway.