

tearing down fences, blowing over chimney tops, and in part unroofing houses on shore. The storm continued through the night. No less than twenty-five schooners were seriously injured; in some cases having their masts, jibbooms, bowsprits, rails and bulwarks carried away, and the hulls more or less stove in. The steamer Delta was run into by a schooner and lost her fore-yard. As the storm appeared to pass over the whole peninsula, it is feared that much damage was sustained by vessels along the whole coast.

The Thorold fire company had their annual oyster supper and ball on Wednesday last; 150 ladies and gentlemen were present.

BARQUE MARIA.—The barque Maria, McKenzie, master, from Quebec for Port Medoc, Wales, has been lost on the Newfoundland coast, and four of the crew drowned. Six of the survivors were landed at Halifax, N. S., on the 10th inst. The Maria was 285 tons register, and sailed from Quebec on the 5th of November, for Port Medoc, with a cargo of square timber, deals, staves and lathwood.

TESTIMONIAL.—Wm. Richardson, representing the Montreal Assurance Company, Mr. Haldan, Jr., of the Etna, and G. Rumball & Co., of the Phoenix, presented Captain Rowan, of the steamer Silver Spray, with a token of their appreciation of his conduct on the occasion of that vessel being driven ashore off Chantry Island, by which the underwriters were saved from a heavy loss.

Messrs. Barclay, Curis & Co., of Greenock, recently launched the Lake Erie, a fine iron sailing ship of 950 tons register, intended for the North American trade. The vessel has been built for the Canada Shipping Company of this city, the owners of the Lake Ontario. The company have contracted, it is said, for seven other equally fine vessels. —[Montreal Gazette.

STEAMER FRANCIS SMITH.—This vessel will be allowed to remain in her present position in the ice till spring. She is considered safe till that time when it is said she can be got off without difficulty. The loss is estimated at \$8,000.

AN INSTRUCTIVE INCIDENT.—The following is given as an actual occurrence:—In one of our cities a representative of an insurance company called upon a merchant in the vigor of a healthy manhood, apparently highly prosperous, who was not insured. This gentleman listened to the statements made with some interest, but finally said that he was compelled, just then, to use his means in mercantile operations, but should soon be ready to take out a \$10,000 policy. The agent suggested that his very circumstances were an argument for that immediate protection for his family which insurance alone could secure, and that if he felt able to give no more than \$5,000 or even less, it might prove of great benefit to them. The man felt the force of the reasoning; and was anxious to get rid of the agent. The result was an application for a policy of \$3,000. The two parted; the former to die within ten days from a sudden attack of fever, the latter to forward the document which gave his widow three thousand dollars, and it was all she had.

VICTORIA MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—The following is the report of the committee appointed by the Board of the Victoria Mutual Insurance Company on the subject of establishing a branch for insuring buildings on the line of the Hamilton water pipes:

In compliance with a resolution of the Board, passed the 7th inst., directing us to take such action as we might deem advisable towards the establishment of a branch in this city, to meet the requirements (by way of insurance) of those whose properties are protected by the line of water pipe, we beg to report,

That the Act 22, Victoria Cap. 22, under which your company was incorporated, amply provides for the separation of its business into two branches or departments, upon the following conditions:

1. That the Directors prepare a scale of risks for each department.
2. That they direct separate and distinct accounts to be kept.
3. That members shall only be liable for claims against the department in which they are insured, and not the one for the other.
4. That all necessary expenses incurred in the management and conducting of such departments, shall be assessed and divided between each in proportion to the amounts insured in each.

To afford complete security to policy holders for the payment of probable loss, it is the opinion of your committee that promises for insurance to the extent of \$100,000 should be obtained before issuing a policy from the proposed branch.

That in lieu of cash, premium notes be accepted, a small per centage of which should be paid in cash to meet the expense of management. The balance subject to assessment for the payment of loss.

That on account of the extra security of this district, afforded by the hydrants, no risk accepted by the proposed branch should be reinsured in other companies; inasmuch as the money paid for premiums would probably exceed the whole amount assessable for loss in this district.

By following principally the foregoing principles the Victoria, in the short space of five years, has attained a substantial position amongst insurance companies, having issued during that time 7,153 policies, and now possessing in available assets for the payment of loss, a sum exceeding \$100,000.

It is, therefore, the intention of your committee to ascertain the views of such as are interested in the proposed object, by calling upon them without delay. (Signed,) Geo. H. Mills, T. McIlwraith, A. T. Wood, P. Carroll.

Risks to the extent of \$114,000 have since been obtained.

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The following are the Insurance Companies which have received licenses to transact the business of Insurance in the Dominion, viz:—

I.—Canadian Companies.

- The British America Assurance Company, deposit \$16,166 Cash—Fire and Inland Marine.
- The Canada Life Assurance Co., \$17,000 Cash—Life.
- The Western Assurance Co., \$17,000 Cash—Fire and Marine.
- The Provincial Insurance Co., \$16,666 Cash—Fire and Inland Marine.
- The Agricultural Mutual Assurance Association, \$12,000 Cash—Fire.

II.—British Companies.

- The North British and Mercantile Insurance Co., \$50,000 Cash; \$100,258 Cash—Fire and Life.
- The Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co., \$50,000 Cash; \$62,293 Canada 5's; \$38,400 Canada 6's—Fire and Life.
- The Royal Insurance Co., \$96,982 Cash; \$53,533 Canada 5's—Fire and Life.
- The Reliance Mutual Life Assurance Society, \$50,000 Cash—Life.
- The Imperial Insurance Company \$54,993 British 3 per cts.; \$48,667 Canada 5's; \$1400 Canada 6's.
- The Northern Assurance Co., \$37,196 Cash; \$12,166 Canada 5's; \$2,000 Canada 6's—Fire.
- The Lancashire Insurance Co., \$33,383 Cash; \$18,666 Canada 5's.
- The Phoenix Fire Insurance Co., \$50,171 Cash; \$50,126 Canada 5's—Fire.
- The Commercial Union Assurance Co., \$51,171 Cash; \$50,613 Canada 5's—Fire.
- The Life Association of Scotland \$150,000 Cash—Fire and Life.
- The Standard Life Assurance Co., \$150,000 Cash—Life.
- The Queen Insurance Co., \$50,000 Cash; \$51,100 Canada 5's—Fire and Life.

- The Edinburgh Life Assurance Co., \$150,515 Cash—Fire and Life.
- The London Assurance Corporation, \$150,000 British 3 per cts.—Life.
- The Scottish Provincial Assurance Co., \$50,171 Cash; \$50,446—Fire and Life.
- The London and Lancashire Insurance Co., \$50,171 Cash—Life.
- The Briton Medical and General Life Association, \$100,343—Life.
- The Star Life Assurance Society, of England, \$100,643.86 Cash—Life.
- The Guardian Insurance Company, of England, \$100,643.86 cash—Fire and Life.

III.—American Companies.

- The Home Insurance Company of New Haven, Conn., \$70,000 U.S. 5-20's—Fire.
- The Etna Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn., \$1,490,000 Cash; \$48,510 Bank Stock—Fire.
- The Hartford Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn., \$130,000 U.S. 5-20's—Fire.
- The Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn., \$70,000 U.S. 5-20's—Life.
- The Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn., \$140,000 U.S. 5-20's—Life.
- The Travelers Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn., \$140,000 U.S. 5-20's—Life and Accident.
- The Etna Life Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn., \$140,000 U.S. 5-20's—Life.
- The New York Life Insurance Co., \$75,000 U.S. 5-20's—Life.
- The Atlantic Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Albany, N. Y., \$50,000 U.S. 10-40's—Life.
- The Equitable Life Insurance Co., of New York, \$75,000 U.S. 5-20's—Life.
- The Union Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Maine, 50,000 U.S. 6's of '81—Life.

MONTREAL FIRE BRIGADE.

We believe the Fire Department of no city in America is so economically managed as that of Montreal. Certainly none is more efficient; therefore, to speak commercially, we have the best article at the lowest price. This is no doubt due to the perfection of discipline in the department, and the admirable general working of the fire-alarm telegraph. Strong indeed must be the wind, inflammable the materials, and nearly absolute the want of water, if a fire should now be allowed to gain such head as to become serious. This being the case, let us see how we compensate the members of this efficient fire brigade of ours, as compared with the wages paid in, say, five of the principal cities of the Union.

The subjoined figures show the annual cost per head of the fire departments, respectively, of the following cities:—

City	Cost	Population
Chicago	\$276,720	250,000
Detroit	63,000	85,000
Louisville	82,000	140,000
St. Louis	187,000	250,000
Baltimore	66,000	250,000
Montreal (gold)	18,125	120,000

From this it will be seen that Chicago pays \$1.10 per head; Baltimore, \$0.27; Detroit, \$0.74; Louisville, \$0.60; St. Louis, \$0.55; and Montreal only \$0.15, equal to \$0.23 U. S. funds. So that our most efficient fire department is maintained at a rate of only about one-fifth of the cost of the fire department of Chicago; and the difference of rate between that of Montreal and the fire departments of the four other cities of the Union which we have cited our readers can calculate for themselves; but in every instance, except Baltimore, it is very great indeed.

The difference, too, between the rate of pay of the members of the fire brigade of the American cities just enumerated, and those of the Montreal fire brigade, is also striking. Our fire brigade has 16 men at \$300, or \$408 in U. S. funds; 9 men at \$400, or \$544 U. S. funds; 9 men at \$500, or \$680 U. S. funds; whilst the American firemen receive \$1,000 each, and the drivers and horsemen \$924 each.—Witness.