

INSURANCE MATTERS.

A scheme is said to be in course of formation in London to assure against the contingency of twin children being born. In England, twins occur once in every 116 cases, though of course certain families are especially prone to them.

The Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association has reinsured on full reserve basis the business of the Northwestern of Chicago, amounting to over sixty millions, with annual income of two millions, and claiming eleven millions of assets.

The Australian Mutual Provident Association has, after long consideration, decided to extend its business to the United Kingdom. It is ten or a dozen years since the authorities of this body first mooted the proposition to do business in the Old Country, but the members did not seem to approve.

The fire department of Amherst, Nova Scotia, is being equipped with up-to-date appliances. A hose wagon to hold 1,000 feet of hose is being procured from Ontario; a hook and ladder truck from Ohio. Then the town is to have the electric fire alarm system of George M. Stevens, of Boston, and consists of one 1,000 pound bell with tower striker, 12 non-interfering street fire alarm boxes with tappers in every fireman's house and in the factories. Thus the full force, consisting of 40 firemen and eight fire police (all volunteers) receive the alarm simultaneously.

The report of the Dominion superintendent of insurance shows that the grand total of the losses incurred by the insurance companies on account of the Ottawa-Hull conflagration amounted to \$3,662,097. It is satisfactory, says the superintendent, "to note the ability of every licensed company to meet promptly all proper demands upon it in respect to the fire, and also the fact that many of the companies, in addition to the payment of the legal claims against them, made handsome contributions to the fund raised for the relief of the sufferers."

TORONTO STOCK TRANSACTIONS.

The promised brisker tone on the Stock Exchange is beginning to make itself felt, and there has been more business transacted during the past week than has been the case for some time. The most prominent features were the number of shares to change hands in Dominion, Canadian General Electric, Reg. Bonds and London Electric, though even in these stocks, the number of transactions was by no means extraordinary. The details are as follows: Ontario, 82 at 126; Merchants', 25 at 155½; Commerce, 136 at 150-2; Imperial, 45 at 216½-217; Dominion, 405 at 232-4; Hamilton, 24 at 187; British American Assurance, 1 at 108; Western Assurance, 287 at 118-127¾ (of which 5 at 112½ were full paid; Consumers' Gas, 23 at 216; Canada N.W. Land, 10 at 49; C.P.R., 592 at 87¼-88¾; Toronto Electric Light, 14 at 132; Can. General Electric, 145 at 167-171¼; Commercial Cable, 270 at 170-3; Bell Telephone, 34 at 173-4; Richelieu and Ontario, 225 at 107-¾; Toronto Railway, 60 at 100-1¼; Montreal Gas, 75 at 188½-189; London Electric, 355 at 112-5¼; Reg. Bonds, 7,800 at 101¾-102; C. P. & W.C., 137 at 111½; Ontario Loan, 20 at 121; Toronto Mortgage, 40½ at 77½; Can. Landed, 39 at 77-80; Republic, 8,000 at 79¾-85; Payne, 4,000 at 95½-100; Carter-Crume, 120 at 102-102¾; Dunlop, 18 at 101; War Eagle, 7,800 at 155-6; Golden Star, 1,000 at 6¾; Crow's Nest, 100 at 150¼-½; Hamilton Reef, 4,500 at 5½-6¾; and North Star, 4,000 at 100½-¾.

—It was remarked in these pages some time ago that many business men this year were too busy to take their accustomed holidays. The Electrical Review, in a somewhat similar vein of thought, says that six weeks ago it looked as if everybody would be so busy that no one would take a holiday; now the condition of the electrical business is such that more people than ever before can afford to take a holiday, and they are taking it. This does not mean, however, that work is not going on with the same tremendous energy and high rate of production that marked the first few months of the present summer; it means rather that the season has not only been one of the busiest ever known in the industries in the United States, but has also been one of the most profitable. We believe these remarks hold good for most lines of business in Canada also.

CHEESE BOARDS.

The cheese market again shows a stronger tendency, chiefly owing to heavy export demand. Prices on the whole are higher than last week. In several cases, holders held out for higher prices than those offered. At Russell, for instance, 11¼c. was bid, but refused, and the cheese sold afterwards on the curb at 11¾c. A similar price (11¼c.) was the highest offered at Picton, but it was not deemed enough. At Ingersoll, no bids were offered, though we hear most of the offerings were sold through the course of the week. At South Finch, 11¾c. was offered, but declined. Shippers evidently think the prospects good for continued higher prices.

Boards and date of meeting	No. of factories.	Cheese boarded Boxes.	Cheese sold Boxes.	Price per lb. Cts.
London, Sept. 8	20	2,552	535	11½
Cornwall, Sept. 8....	..	1,466	1,411	11½
Cowansville, Sept. 8.	58	3,423	3,175	11-11½
Perth, Sept. 7.....	..	1,318	all	11½
Napanee, Sept. 7. . .	..	975	135	11½
Ottawa, Sept. 7 ....	..	1,340	1,009	11½
Kemptville, Sept. 7..	..	735	200	11½
Winchester, Sept. 7. .	..	878	620	11½
Brantford, Sept. 7 ..	..	2,058	1,823	11½-11½
South Finch, Sept. 7	11	1,300	none	
Madoc, Sept. 6 ....	..	740	610	11½
Brockville, Sept. 6 ..	..	2,940	1,138	11½-11½
Kingston, Sept. 6 ..	..	675	434	11
Barrie, Sept. 6 ....	..	565	all	10½-11½
Woodstock, Sept. 12	9	2,208	260	11½
Russell, Sept. 12 ....	..	620	none	
Picton, Sept. 12	16	785	none	
Ingersoll, Sept. 11 ..	..	800	none	
Lindsay, Sept. 10 ..	..	1,525	all	11½
Belleville, Sept. 8 ...	15	1,070	....	11½

—The Great Lakes and the Eastern Atlantic are to be connected by another experimental group of vessels; this time steam vessels, very different in size and style from the pioneer sailing schooners which took grain from Chicago and timber from Detroit River forty years ago. We hear that the iron and steel men of Pittsburg and other American cities have just placed "rush" orders for the construction of a fleet of freight steamers intended to ply from Lake Erie ports, via the Welland canal and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, across the Atlantic. The fleet will probably cost \$3,500,000. Orders for these extensive equipments are stated to have been divided among the Globe, Cleveland and Detroit Shipbuilding Companies, and the work of construction has already begun. Orders have also been placed for freighters to ply on the Great Lakes in the ore and coal trade. In all, the contracts call for nineteen vessels. The lake freighters will have a carrying capacity of 7,000 or 8,000 tons, and will cost on an average \$50,000 each.

—A branch of the People's Bank of Halifax has been opened at Grand Mere in the province of Quebec, under the management of Mr. P. L. Smyth, formerly accountant at the Quebec office of the bank. Grand Mere is the headquarters of the Laurentide Pulp Company, and is situated in Champlain county, about thirty miles from Three Rivers.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, September 13th, 1900, compared with those of the previous week :

CLEARINGS;	September 13, 1900.	September 6, 1900.
Montreal.....	\$14,455,601	\$11,840,194
Toronto	10,191,909	7,250,093
Winnipeg	1,719,214	1,671,230
Halifax	1,519,879	1,390,465
Hamilton	727,949	708,571
St. John	871,335	675,430
Vancouver	1,038,007	944,633
Victoria	727,492	139,462

\$31,251,386 \$24,115,078

Aggregate balances, this week, \$4,759,054; last week, \$3,932,018