

from the way he seems to have conducted his business and impressed people in Montreal and elsewhere. He has had the shrewdness to get good men round him, though; I mean when his company started to telegraphing he had the choice of experienced operators and experts, and he got them. Still he had the advantage of beginning his superintendency in a modern time, when electrical service was advanced, and he got the best and latest of everything for his line—at least if he didn't he ought to, for Van Horne himself is an old telegraph man, and it stands to reason that he would want the best appliances possible for his line."

AN OLD FIRE STORY—OFTEN NEW.

A short time ago the village of Thornville voted for and carried a by-law granting the municipal council permission to purchase a fire hose and the necessary appliances for efficiently working the same. The pressure was obtained from the water fall at the mill; consequently a fire engine was not necessary. There was great enthusiasm in the village; everybody had ambition to belong to the fire brigade and wear cocked hats and brass buttons. But this was during the warm, sunny month of June.

When at last 'the hose' and reel arrived, bright with polish and paint, the brass band of the village was brought out, the children gathered, the ladies smiled, excitement was at fever heat, and every man within a mile of the village volunteered to be a fireman or die in the attempt. The mistake they made during the excitement was in appointing too many Horsifers and not enough men to work the hose.

In the following winter, one dark evening, while a big snow storm was raging, a cry of "Fire! Fire!" rang through the village, and news came that Widow Johnson's wood shed was on fire. Aha! thought the average inhabitant, how fortunate that we're protected from fire by our brigade and our hose reel. Dear, dear—what a dreadful night to be burned out.

"Now, then, get out the hose reel, you fellows. Hurry up." This was heard from an officer. And presently: "Hurrah! hurry to the pumping house. The brigade arrived, consisting of one man, three lads and a woman. The cry went up, "Where's the lanterns? we can't see. Where are the axes? Ask Jones. Where's everybody?" "The lanterns and axes were here six weeks ago," said one of the boys. The captain shouted suddenly, "Something's gone wrong with the pipe; it won't open." The trustees and councillors arrived in a body. They had been at a council meeting discussing technical education and the best means of fighting fire. "Run down to the mill; the wrench is inside the engine house," yelled a trustee. "What do you know about it," sassed back the captain, thinking his prerogatives trodden upon. "I reckon we're all right." He was bound that the fire should be put out in the regulation way—or else not at all. And the regulation way was by a captain with a red coat and a fire trumpet, and by a branchman with a leather helmet.

The reel is run out, and a startling discovery is made. "Great Scott!" calls out some one, "where is the hose? it's not on the reel." The councillors in a body indignantly demand, "Where's the hose? where's the hose? We'll discharge the whole blessed gang of you."

"Please, sir," said a little boy, "the hose is hung up in the mill, and the mill is locked up." The trustees hold a hasty meeting; they

decide to smash in the doors of the mill and get out the hose. While the firemen go after the hose, the trustees light their cigars and discuss the deplorable condition of the fire department. At last the welcome sound is heard on all sides: "Here they come. Make way for the hose. Clear the track for the brigade. Now, boys, to the fire and do your duty. Noble fellows."

Just as they are starting for the second time towards Widow Johnson's woodshed, little Willie, Mrs. Johnson's youngest son, comes up and says to the trustees and councillors: "Please sirs, you needn't send the firemen 'cause mother and the woman what lives nex' door put it out with pails of water that me and me sister pumped."

The firemen looked at one another, and then adjourned to the village hotel to find out what "gossoon" had left the hose hung up in the mill, while the trustees and councillors returned to the council chamber to finish their discussion, let us hope, as to the best means of fighting fire.

BANK OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The annual meeting of shareholders in the Bank of New Brunswick was held at noon on Monday, 16th January, in St. John, Hon. J. D. Lewin, president, in the chair. The statement for the calendar year showed profits of \$95,000.37, after deducting charges of management and all expenses except taxes. The taxes amounted to \$87,857. Dividend at 12 per cent. absorbed \$60,000. Overdue debts at the close of the year stood at \$3,840.73.

The circulation of the bank stood at \$444,636 at the close of the year; deposits without interest, \$587,192; deposits at interest, \$1,235,906; the Rest is \$525,000 (which is \$25,000 greater than the capital), and there is \$12,710.22 at Profit and Loss. Among the assets are Dominion notes, \$162,743; specie, \$182,078; notes, cheques, balances and current bills of exchange, \$228,852; bonds, \$296,382; loans and bills discounted, \$484,596.

It was explained that the bank is not involved in the matter of the Parks Cotton Mill at all; it is simply an affair of Messrs. Jones and Turnbull, who are underwriters of the bank, and Mr. Schofield, the bank's manager, was trustee at the request of these gentlemen and Mr. Parks. On motion of G. Sidney Smith, seconded by A. W. Lovitt, a vote of thanks was given the directors and management. The question of increasing the dividend came up, whereupon the president, Senator Lewin, said it would not be well to increase the dividend unless it could be kept at the increased rate. Mr. Schofield pointed out the importance of a large rest, because of the confidence it begets and the business it brings. He showed that the earnings of the bank last year were 8½ per cent. on combined capital and rest. The bank has had a long, successful, and honorable career, having been incorporated in March, 1820.

The following gentlemen were re-elected directors: Hon. J. D. Lewin, John Yeats, S. Jones, W. Turnbull, C. H. Fairweather.

COAL PRODUCTION IN NOVA SCOTIA

In the county of Cape Breton, which is the scene of the proposed coal combine, the total production of coal was, last year, 925,000, being 57,000 tons less than in 1891. In Pictou county it was 408,000, a slight gain, and in Cumberland county, where the Spring Hill Mines are, it was 428,000, a decrease of 34,000

tons. The grand total for last year is given at 1,761,000 tons, as compared with 1,840,000 in 1891, a decrease of 88,000 tons. The *Stellarton Journal-News* furnishes the following statement of the coal sales for the year 1892. The shipments from the several collieries are as follows, throwing on or off the odd tons to make even figures:

Name of Colliery.	Tons Shp. '91.	Tons Shp. '92.
Spring Hill	406,092	362,000
Joggins	54,000	64,000
Sundries	2,000	2,000
Intercolonial.....	136,000	188,000
Acadia		84,000
Albion	239,000	80,000
Vale		54,000
East River.....	2,000	2,000
Black Diamond.....	1,771	
Bridgeport.....	33,000	34,000
Caledonia	145,000	110,000
Gardener	17,000	40,000
Glace Bay.....	110,000	94,000
Gowrie	152,000	132,000
International	125,000	105,000
Ontario	3,000	
Reserve	155,000	135,000
Sydney	147,000	167,000
Victoria.....	96,000	107,000

MONTREAL BOARD OF TRADE.

On Friday last the nomination of officers of the Montreal Board of Trade took place. There was very little animation about the proceedings. Mr. W. W. Ogilvie, the well-known merchant and flour mill proprietor, was elected president by acclamation. He was proposed by the retiring president, Mr. Greenshields. Mr. James A. Cantlie and Mr. Richard White are nominated for first vice-president. Mr. Charles P. Hebert was also nominated for the office but declined. There will be no contest for the office of second vice-president, Mr. W. C. Munderloh having been elected by acclamation to fill that position. Mr. Edgar Judge is chosen treasurer, without opposition. No less than twenty-three gentlemen are nominated for the council, twelve to be elected. For the Board of Arbitration twelve are wanted and fourteen are nominated. The elections take place at the annual meeting of the board, which takes place on January 31st.

MANUFACTURERS LIFE COMPANY.

The result of the past year's business to this company has been an addition of more than \$100,000 to its assets, which now amount to \$542,794. Both the premium income and the interest income were increased over those of 1891, the former amounting for the twelve months to \$224,812. The new business of the year exceeded \$2,000,000 under 1,350 policies, an average of say \$1,530 each; and the total business at risk has reached the very large figure of \$8,146,989 as compared with \$7,412,761 twelve months before. These are very creditable results; and what is a still more advantageous feature of the year's business, the expenses are reduced; indeed, according to the chairman's statement, they are less than they were in 1888. It was scarcely to be expected that the low ratio of death loss which characterized the previous year would be equalled, and in fact the death losses are for the year just passed considerably larger, viz., \$51,631; several large policies have become claims, thereby preventing any great increase of surplus. Mr. Gooderham vouches for the character of the company's investments and is able to report that the interest on them has been promptly paid, features which policy-holders will welcome. The affairs of the company give evidence of satisfactory