

panies were well established institutions in Europe, long before the use of the article itself had become at all common in this country.

During the last few years, however, its use has extended rapidly; and the pedestrian, in the course of a stroll up Broadway, may see more palatial plate glass windows than in any other street in the world. Yet it is a fact which admits of no dispute that a large number of these handsome fronts are left by their owners without any protection in the way of insurance, while in Europe, as we know from personal investigation, a merchant will insure his plate glass sooner than his own life.

The principal cause for this apparent recklessness on the part of American plate glass owners, lays just in the fact, that plate glass insurance has had too many "underground" operators. People are willing and anxious enough to insure—if only they know where to go with safety. We have always advised, where a doubt exists, an appeal to the Insurance Superintendent at Albany. We find on a reference to our files that that official declared in the early part of this year, that only one plate glass insurance company in this State was legally authorized to do business. This was the

METROPOLITAN PLATE GLASS COMPANY,

then and now under the management of HENRY HARTEAU as President, and Thos. S. THORP as Secretary. As it throws a light on some of the circumstances attending the disappearance of certain other companies since that date we quote the correspondence as follows:—

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF BROKERS, No. 162 Broadway, City of New York, January, 8th, 1876.

HON. O. W. CHAPMAN, Supt. of the Insurance Dept., Albany, N.Y.:

DEAR SIR:—An organization has lately been effected called "The Lloyds" Plate Glass Association of New York, and advertise to issue "legal and valid policies" against accidental breakage of Plate Glass.

Will you have the kindness to give the information, for the benefit of the Board of Insurance brokers, as to their standing in your Department under the Insurance Laws of this State, and also what Plate Glass Insurance Companies, if any, are licensed by your Department to do business in this State.

Yours, very truly,

ROBERT C. RATHBONE, President.
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT, Albany, Jan. 10th, 1876.

TO ROBERT C. RATHBONE, Esq., President Board of Insurance Brokers, New York:

DEAR SIR:—In answer to yours of the 8th inst., the organization known as the "LLOYDS" Plate Glass Association has not filed any charter or other papers in this Department, nor has it made any deposits such as it is believed the law contemplates. The "METROPOLITAN PLATE GLASS INSURANCE COMPANY" is the only Company which has complied with the requirements of this Department. It has on deposit here \$50,000.

Respectfully yours,

WM. SMYTH, Deputy Superintendent.

The following figures show that the investments of the Metropolitan have been made with the greatest financial ability.

STATEMENT, JULY 1st, 1876.

ASSETS.

U.S. Gov. Bonds, 5-20, 6 per cent.	
gold,.....	\$99,949 10
Cash on Deposit,.....	12,771 49
Glass on hand,.....	3,866 51
Office and Storehouse Implements,	617 54
Premiums in course of collection,	6,950 53
Interest accrued,.....	90 00
	\$124,245 17

LIABILITIES, \$1,333.00.

Whole number of policies issued, six thousand five hundred and two.

Various contrivances have been resorted to with a view to evade the wholesome law which regulates insurance business in this State, and if people will only insure with companies which obey it they will run no risk whatever. The Metropolitan, as the only one having any experience which has strictly complied with each and every requirement of the law, is, we cannot help thinking, entitled not only to the fullest confidence on the part of the public, but also to the lion's share of their business. This we believe has so far been the case, and if the press will but do its duty, by pointing out the true facts of the case, the prosperity of the Metropolitan cannot but be even greater than heretofore.—N. Y. Trade Reporter.

The Metropolitan Plate Glass Insurance Company is represented in Montreal and Canada by Mr. R. J. Lonsdale, office 163 St James street. The remarks above noted will apply to Plate Glass Insurance in Canada, as we have evidence before us of the fact that the Metropolitan Plate Glass Insurance Company is the only company of the kind recognized by our Insurance department at Ottawa. We cordially bespeak for the Metropolitan a continuance of the support it has so deservingly been accorded by our citizens.

FIRE RECORD.

Arthur, Ont., Nov. 17.—Fire in straw stack on Mr. J. O'Sullivan's farm, lot 10, Concession 4, and spread to the barn, which was destroyed, together with its contents, and a threshing machine owned by Shannon & Maddigan. Loss about \$1200, upon which Mr. O'Sullivan will receive about \$700 from the Victoria Company.

Windsor, Ont., Nov. 20.—Fire in house of Mr. Gorst, photographer, all was saved but \$1000 worth of the house. The loss, however, is fully covered by insurance.

Halifax, Nov. 24.—Dwelling house and two barns owned by Mrs. Thompson, of Wallace Bay, were burned; no insurance.

Wingham, Ont., Nov. 23.—Fire broke out in wood shed adjoining Albion Hotel, completely destroying the hotel and part of the furniture. The owner, Mr. James, loses \$2,000; insurance on stables and hotel \$1,500.

Montreal, Nov. 26.—Fire in store of John Richards, tailor, St. Peter street. Damage about \$500. Fully insured in the Liverpool, London and Globe, North British and Mercantile, and Citizens Insurance Companies. Small fire at St. Lawrence Hall, damage very slight.

Quebec, Nov. 26.—Drying house attached to Fish's match factory at New Liverpool was burned, damage about \$200; no insurance.

Montreal, Nov. 26.—Fire in store of Mr. W. Riepert, hatter and furrier, 99 St. Lawrence street. Loss fully covered by insurance.

Hawkesbury, Ont., Nov. 27.—The mansion and outbuildings at the village of Hawkesbury, belonging to the estate of the late E. Hersey, were burned by supposed incendiary; insurance \$5,000.

Sarnia, Ont., Nov. 28.—Frame barn and driving shed of Messrs. David & John Miller, on

lot No. 4 in the 4th Concession of Sarnia township, were totally consumed.

Ridgeway, Nov. 28.—About one o'clock this morning the cheese factory belonging to Peter Larn was totally destroyed by fire, together with its contents, about four tons of cheese. Loss about \$15.00; insured for \$1100.

Quebec, Nov. 29.—Fire in an unoccupied shed in a lumber yard near the Marine Hospital, occupied by Mr. Currier; adjoining stables and two valuable horses were destroyed and a large quantity of lumber burned. Damage, \$12,000; insured in the Royal for \$2,000.

Quebec, Nov. 29.—Large barn belonging to Etienne Roy, of St. Lambert, Levis, containing a quantity of grain, eight cattle and two horses, were burned. Damage about \$1,600; insured in the St. Thomas Insurance Company of Montmagny for \$400.

Commercial.

MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, Nov. 30th, 1876.

Nothing of moment has appeared since our last review. The impression continues to prevail that, as soon as the usual winter stagnation is over, the country is likely to enter again on its normal career of prosperity. But the errors of a decade are not to be corrected in a day or month. The people have reveled in luxuries on borrowed capital, pay day is approaching and many have but little to show in the way of assets for the goods consumed; hence a gradual saving from our future earnings is requisite to the reaching of a "hardpan," and not the renewal and extension of debts already over-burdensome. We have had our dance at the expense of discounting the future, and honesty and the piper require that the fun shall now cease. Many a merchant would be in a sound condition to-day, had he not been able to obtain more credit than was good for him. The operations at the Stock Exchange during the week have been unimportant, reflecting an undecided yet struggling speculation. The leading operators being demoralized, the others scarcely know what to do.

ASHES.—Receipts have been liberal both of Pots and Pearls. First Pots sold early in the week at \$4.10; advanced to \$4.39, and have declined to \$4.15 to \$4.25 for light to very heavy tares. A few brls. Seconds sold at \$3 10; Thirds purely nominal; Pearls \$5.00 to \$5.10 for First Sort, there is a fair enquiry for both Pots and Pearls, but the market closes weaker for Pots. The receipts for 11 months to 30th November have been 13130 brls. Pots and 1345 brls. Pearls; the deliveries 12639 brls. Pots and 1618 brls. Pearls, and the stock in store at six o'clock this evening was 2573 brls. Pots and 732 brls. Pearls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—Very little now doing, and manufacturers are slackening off their operations preparatory to stock taking, which in this branch of trade is usually 1st of December. Stocks of manufactured goods are lighter than last year in first hands, but there is some complaint among retailers that warm winter lines have been little called for. A better demand, however, may be expected on the appearance of snow.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—No business doing of consequence.—Prices are unchanged and nominal.—See *Prices Current*.

DRY GOODS.—As is usual at this season of the year very little is being done by the wholesale trade, and that little is less than it might be were the country roads at all passable. Our City retail trade has somewhat improved during the last few days, owing no doubt to the cold snap we are now having. Remittances are a trifle better this week than last.

FISH.—Salmon, No. 1, 2 and 3, \$14, \$12.50, and \$11. Draft Fish, No. 1 in hlds, \$3.50. Bay Island Catch Herrings, a failure.

FURS AND SKINS.—Trade in this department is very quiet and prices weak, especially for low grades for which there is little demand. The mild weather of the last four weeks has had a rather unfavorable influence upon the