

Other Fire Companies.			
Cologne .....	85,829	85,82	
Maanheim .....	116,340	116,340	
Netherlands .....	13,750	20,000	6,250
Prussian National .....		13,982	13,982
Salamandra .....	150,000	150,742	742
St. Catharines .....	102,027	162,919	50,892
Svea .....		24,712	24,712
Totals .....	\$265,777	\$564,024	\$298,247
Grand total .....	\$2,370,531	\$3,340,383	\$969,848

### MONTREAL SHOULD HAVE A VICE REGAL RESIDENCE.

The subject of this city having a Vice Regal residence was discussed in the year 1897, and was strongly advocated by the Mayor at that time. Several meetings were held in connection therewith, and the merchants were very much impressed with the proposal. Owing, however, to various other matters, it was dropped for the time being.

The benefits the City would derive from having a Vice Regal residence are too obvious to need enlarging upon. It would mean a large influx of visitors to the city, and increased business in all our stores. Cannot the metropolitan city of the Dominion get one or two hundred of the leading citizens to join in the movement and raise sufficient funds for this purpose?

What specially appeals to us at the present time is the opportunity afforded for securing a property most suitable for such a residence, which, we understand, can be purchased on reasonable terms. Opportunities of this nature do not occur every day, and are likely to become fewer as time goes on. We would suggest that a few of our leading financiers and merchants meet and discuss the subject, with a view to giving practical effect to this suggestion. We know that some very prominent citizens are prepared to join the movement.

### FIRE ON CRAIG STREET, MONTREAL.

A fire broke out on the evening of the first instant, in the McCaskill building, causing practically a total loss to all concerned in the building. The following companies are interested:

On building.—Aetna \$3,750, Liverpool & London & Globe \$3,750, British American \$4,000, Royal \$4,000, Sun \$4,000, Western \$4,000. Total, \$25,500.

Tourangeau stock.—Home \$1,000, Norwich Union \$1,000. Total, \$2,000.

J. Cohen stock.—Alliance \$5,000, British American \$2,500, Caledonian \$2,500, Western, \$2,500, London & Lancashire \$1,500, R.D. & Y. \$2,000, Provincial \$2,500, Lloyds \$20,000. Total, \$41,000.

Timis stock.—Queen \$1,000, Anglo-American \$1,000, S. S. Mutual \$1,000. Total, \$3,000.

Buntin stock.—Liverpool & London & Globe \$2,500, Royal \$2,500, S. S. Mutual \$1,000. Total, \$6,000.

Abbey's Salts stock.—Caledonian \$1,000, British America \$2,000, Norwich Union \$2,500, Union \$2,500, Western \$1,500. Total, \$9,500.

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Jew dining-room—Western \$800, Paterson, Atlas \$2,000.

Rice, Johnson & Gladwish stock.—Phoenix of Brooklyn \$1,000, North America \$500. Total, \$1,500.

Gross stock.—London & Lancashire \$1,000.  
Telfor stock.—Liverpool & London & Globe \$1,500.

Carter's ink, stock.—North America \$1,000.  
A very slight smoke damage, consequent on the fire, occurred to E. B. Greenshields, Ltd., also to stock of Forman, Electrician, probably a matter of \$5,000 or \$6,000.

### MR. D. M. STEWART, GENERAL MANAGER SOVEREIGN BANK, ON AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Mr. D. M. Stewart, general manager Sovereign Bank of Canada, arrived in Montreal a few days ago, after a few weeks' holiday spent on the other side of the Atlantic, during which time he visited London, Paris, Berlin, Brussels, Edinburgh, Dublin, Belfast and Cork.

On being interviewed by a representative of THE CHRONICLE he stated that considerable attention is paid by financiers in the old country to Canadian securities. The money market is easy and banks generally are prosperous especially the Irish banks which are the most prosperous in the United Kingdom. The increase in deposits in Irish banks during the last ten years was greater in proportion than in either the banks of England or Scotland. The salaries paid to officials in Irish banks are larger than those in English or Scotch banks, which probably accounts for the larger number of applications for positions in Canadian banks received from England and Scotland.

During his visit to Dublin the city was *en fête*, the occasion being the presence of the Prince of Wales, who was then on a visit to Ireland.

As Mr. Stewart is an officer in the Canadian Militia, he was much interested in the proceedings at the *levée* and other public celebrations. He Much enjoyed a visit to his native county, Killarney, after an absence of nineteen years.

From his observations in England he regards business there to be very good, which is not helpful to the Chamberlain movement. But he found that a number of business men he conversed with believe things are tending towards some form of inter-Imperial tariff arrangement.

This will have nothing to do directly with the future of the present Government, which nearly everyone expects to see defeated in the near future. The Governments' policy, regarding schools, the army and other matters, he states, are much more likely to be responsible for its own overthrow than any partiality towards tariff reform.

During a conversation with the Hon. Mr. Chamberlain, the latter expressed the opinion to Mr. Stewart, that the Government would be defeated, but this did not disconcert him in the least. The ex-Colonial Secretary impressed Mr. Stewart as being a most astute, sharp-witted statesman. Having hazarded the remark, that our Canadian Government did not care to come out openly on the fiscal question as it was by nature domestic politics, Mr. Chamberlain quickly retorted, "What about 'Home Rule,' " which is a domestic question if ever there was one, did not the Canadian Government put itself on record on that question?

Mr. Stewart was glad to get back to Montreal, and Canada, which he considers is the best country to live in.