

INSURANCE NOTES.

The authorities of Liverpool do not permit their fire ordinances to be trifled with. In that city theatres are required to have a fire-proof curtain at the front of the stage, which must be lowered at least once during each performance, in order to show that it is in good working condition. Recently the manager of the Grand Theatre failed to lower the curtain as required, and as a consequence he was arrested and fined £5.

Three men belonging to the village of Eden, near St. Thomas, named A. S. Stillwell, Robert Boughner and Joseph Ball, have been committed to gaol on the charge of setting fire to the Eden Hotel on the morning of the 15th inst., when the hotel and barns were entirely consumed, occasioning a loss of \$4,000. Franklin Grey, lessee of the hotel, swore that he saw the three prisoners coming out of the barn while it was burning, carrying two coal oil cans. If this charge be proven, we trust such rascals will get whatever punishment the law can give them.

Two friends, one the agent of a life insurance company, and the other a drummer, are sitting in a tavern playing cards. They get into a quarrel and become very personal in their remarks. Finally the life insurance agent jumps up, seizes the drummer by the throat, and shaking him, says in a hoarse voice: "You infernal scoundrel, if you were not insured in my company I'd choke the life out of you."—*Texas Siftings*.

In the neat pamphlet recently issued entitled "The Record of a Single Year," are some striking figures derived from the experience of the New York Life Insurance Company. That company paid during 1889 death claims to the number of 1,122, or at the rate of three per day, and their aggregate amount was over five million dollars (\$5,032,466.) Then there is a list of endowments paid last year which foots up \$1,219,629. An amusing but practical use is made of the pamphlet by the following, which we quote from its conclusion:—"How do you suppose it happened that the death-claims and endowments paid by the New York Life, in 1889, were just enough in number so that, by beginning on the third page, they ended on the last page? Well, it didn't just happen so; the editor so planned the book as to make it come out so. . . Your life-work is like this book; it will not come out right unless you plan to have it come so. If you wish to leave your family in comfortable circumstances in case of your premature death, or to have your old age blessed with abundance, in case you live to old age, you must plan to have it so."

In the discussion among the fire engineers at Detroit last week, respecting fires from defective flues, ex-Chief Kingland of New York city insisted on the need of better inspection laws. In one instance, a \$7,000 building, being completed, was found on inspection to have several defective flues. In this case the proprietor refused to remedy the joists, claiming that the expense was too great. The case was brought before the board of fire underwriters, who refused to write insurance until the matter was remedied.

—In enumerating the names of the officers of the Truro Board of Trade, we overlooked that of the secretary, which is from the point of view of the public, perhaps the most important to have made known. The name of the secretary of the Truro Board is Mr. G. A. Hall.

THE MADOC GOLD REGION.

Interest is being renewed in the development of the Madoc gold mining district of Madoc, Ontario. Quite a flutter of excitement has been occasioned there, says a despatch to *The Globe*, lately. Mr. Fred Lingham, who represents a wealthy syndicate of London, Eng., has been visiting various gold properties in the district for the past week or two, and is shipping tons of gold ore to London to be tested. The syndicate at the same time is testing a new process machine for crushing and extracting gold. Mr. Lingham has a credit of \$10,000 to be used in examining the Madoc district. If satisfactory new machinery will be sent out and mills erected. Mr. Lingham will, it is said, ship about 2,000 tons from the Feigle, Gladstone, Consolidated and other mines near Madoc, and also a number of tons from the vicinity of Flinton.

MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances for week ending 4th September, 1890, are as under:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Aug. 29.....	\$1,642,917	\$354,211
" 30.....	1,657,150	272,756
Sept. 1.....	1,302,974	231,861
" 2.....	1,458,984	144,219
" 3.....	1,318,114	245,154
" 4.....	1,889,926	302,674
Total	\$ 9,270,065	\$1,550,875
Last week	\$10,313,509	\$1,903,798
Cor. week 1889	\$ 8,356,395	\$1,209,906

—The New Brunswick Secretary for Agriculture, Mr. C. H. Lugin, in a bulletin issued last week, concludes from eighty-five reports received from different parts of the province that there has been a marked improvement in the condition of the crop during August, with a prospect of still further improvement, but the condition over the whole province is not up to the average. Assuming 100 to represent prime condition, the reports give percentages of condition for the several counties during the week ending August 23rd, ranging from 67 in Queen's and Albert counties to 90 in Victoria, and 93 in Kings. A calculation based upon these percentages and the respective oat product of the several counties, makes the percentage of condition for the province, as a whole, 76.2. The report on the acreage in crop published in July showed a substantial reduction in the breadth sown to oats.

—Among the exhibits of unusual interest to be made at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition next week is one of the products of the Island of Trinidad, which Mr. A. W. Murdoch tells us will reach here in a few days. A deputation of merchants from that West Indian colony is expected about the same time. Another display to be made is that of three sticks of timber from British Columbia, measuring sixty feet in length by three feet square. These enormous logs have been ordered by the Montreal Harbor Commissioners for construction work in connection with the harbor of that city. Their unusual dimensions cannot fail to attract great attention.

—Since the decision of the court at Victoria, B.C., that the imposition of a tax of \$10 on commercial travellers was illegal, it is reported that the council of that city has decided to levy a license fee of \$50, giving permission to commercial travellers to sell goods during a period of six months from the issuance of the

license. This is being done, it is said, under a provision of the Municipal Act permitting a tax to be levied on wholesale traders not exceeding \$50 in amount. The *Winnipeg Commercial* understands that in Vancouver the trade license question remains in an unsettled state, but the measure is so unpopular that it is likely it will be finally abandoned.

—The commodious corner offices on the ground floor of the New York Life building, corner St. James street and Place d'Armes Square, in Montreal, have been taken by the Quebec Bank, which will proceed to fit them up handsomely, as befits the structure. They will also be arranged in such a manner as to make the premises among the most suitable in the city for a bank. The fittings will be of cherry, with panels of plate glass and artistic metal work. The board-room, manager's room, and retiring room will all face on Place d'Armes Square, and the remainder of the room will be divided in a manner to suit the requirements of the bank and its customers.

—A considerable share of the carrying trade of the Erie canal last month consisted of ice. In the last week of the month there was carried no less than 37,625 tons of ice, nearly all of which was destined for New York city, shipped by the canal from White Hall during the above period this year. The canal tonnage from August 22 to 31, inclusive, was 228,861 tons, against 258,739 tons carried during the corresponding period last year, a decrease this year of 29,878 tons.

—The secretary of the Port Arthur Board of Trade writes the secretary of the Hamilton Board to say that the town of Port Arthur, together with the different municipalities, are prepared to offer a substantial bonus for the erection and operation of a 100-barrel or upwards flour mill at some point in that district.

—The Ashley factory, Thurlow, Ont., has an order from Hodgson Bros., cheese buyers, to manufacture for them for export to England, twenty cheese of 1,200 pounds each. He got last year two cheese of similar size from this factory.

Correspondence.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR,—I saw a paragraph lately in a Canadian or American paper mentioning the finding of platinum somewhere in British Columbia. But I have mislaid the paper and have forgotten the locality.

Can you inform me if this information as to the metal named is accurate, and describe the part of B.C. whence it is derived. A reply through your columns would be esteemed, for I am just now at a place where geological reports or such works of reference are not to be had.

ENQUIRER.

[Platinum is found in association with placer gold, according to Report on the Minerals of British Columbia, 1888, by G. M. Dawson, F.G.S., on Granite, Cedar, and Slate Creeks, on the Tulameen, in that province. And Mr. David T. Day states, in "Mineral Resources of the United States," 1887, pp. 2 and 142, that a total of 448 ounces of platinum is reported as the yield of that metal in the United States in 1887. Part of this came from Oregon, but a portion of it is stated to have been derived from British Columbia. The average price paid for this crude platinum was about \$4 per ounce.—Ed. M. T.]