

cause, as well as the superiority of the quality over well water, for steam engines and some branches of business, it leads to the introduction of manufactures which would otherwise go elsewhere. Moreover, an efficient water supply would not be without its influence in determining the residence of many persons of leisure and means.

A most important consideration which leads to the selection of a particular town for every kind of establishment, is the question of Insurance. If it be established that large stocks of provisions, manufactures, etc., may be held here as safe from the ravages of fire as elsewhere, and at the lowest rates of Insurance, Ottawa will continue to be the depot of the Ottawa Valley, and of the supplies for its great Lumber Trade for all future time.

MR. ALFRED PERRY, of Montreal, whose position as Inspector of the Royal Insurance Company, makes him the best authority upon the subject, states, that the losses by fire in Ottawa in the last four years have exceeded half a million of dollars, of which the Insurance Companies paid \$280,000, and the Proprietors \$240,000. The losses of 1868 exceeded \$200,000.

First-class rates, which in Montreal are 5s., are in Ottawa 10s.; Second-class, which in Ottawa are 22s. 6d., are only 12s. 6d. in Montreal; while Third-class risks which will scarcely be taken here at 50s., can be insured in Montreal at 20s. In consequence of these high rates, one half of the property here, he says, is uninsured; and he justly observes that the effect of an efficient water supply would not only be a great reduction of rates, but also of the necessity for insuring to so great an extent. Where \$1,000 is now insured with the certainty of total loss in case of fire, \$600 would do in the prospect of only a partial loss.

He estimates the amount now annually paid for water at \$20,000—say one dollar per head on the population—or more than the interest on the cost of water works. He states the annual amount paid for Fire Insurance to be \$70,000, and this is a fact he has the best means of knowing. In Hamilton in 1857, with about the same population, from an exact Return furnished to me by every Insurance Company doing business there, I found the insured value was once \$6,200,000, on which the annual charge was \$59,000, or nearly one per cent. Whether the valuation in Ottawa be at all in proportion to that of Hamilton, for the same