

sandy loam." Thirty reports of the kind are given.

Lumbering is also treated, and a list of the sawmills in the province given. We learn from page 65 that a ship, the "Titian," has loaded at the Hastings mill with a cargo of lumber for Wilmington, in the State of Delaware, for use in the United States navy-yard, which needs British Columbia's splendid trees for masts and yards. Also that a shipment of seven car-loads B. C. lumber passed eastward last week via the Canadian Pacific Railway. Ten pages is devoted to a description of the mines and a table of selected ores. We congratulate Mr. Oppenheimer, the president, and Mr. McGowan, the secretary, upon so interesting and valuable a report. The membership of the board has increased to 116, against 54 in the previous year.

#### A VICTORIA "HIGH ROLLER."

The sudden disappearance of William Whyte, cashier to Messrs. Robert Dunsmuir & Sons, of Victoria, B.C., has been the cause of much gnashing of teeth among all his friends, and among a great many of the tradesmen of that city. Mr. Whyte was well paid by the great colliery and railway proprietors whom he served, having something near \$200 a month; and yet debts to the amount of \$35,000 have been left unpaid by him. He has been extremely, foolishly, and culpably extravagant; but besides he has been speculating in real estate in Port Angeles and Port Crescent on the American coast, hoping that some railway company or other would be pleased to make either or both of these places a railway terminus.

As may be supposed, Whyte has been embezzling the money of his employers, and in a note which he wrote to Mr. James Dunsmuir he said he had left behind some deeds of the American property to meet his defalcations. It is not likely ever to be known what amount of Messrs. Dunsmuir's money he has embezzled, but it is supposed to be a pretty large sum, for his opportunities were very great. The expensive furniture in his house has never belonged to him, having been "lent" by a furniture dealer under a law which furniture dealers find useful and handy; and as no registration of such transactions is required, it is likely that the furniture is mortgaged elsewhere.

There have been many references to the case both in the *Colonist* and the *Times*, of Victoria, and amazement has been expressed—and no wonder—that a clerk in a situation could get so much credit. He owes, for instance, some \$2,000 for jewellery which he has taken with him.

But from a moral point of view, by far the most deplorable question involved in Whyte's defalcations and embezzlements is that a rich man in Victoria, an old resident, a great landed proprietor, well known to the Messrs. Dunsmuir, with an office three minutes from theirs, has been lending money, to the extent sometimes of \$2,000, at interest and compound interest of 4 per cent. per month, or 48 per cent. per annum, to this clerk. Yet the gentleman is not a money-lender by profession. It is generally asserted in that community that the Messrs. Dunsmuir have a strong grievance; that a gentleman, on friendly terms with them, should repeatedly lend one of their salaried clerks money at such an unheard-of interest. Victoria is not Cariboo, nor is it Cassiar. There are the banks of British Columbia, of British North America, of Montreal, besides smaller banks in the city, so no legitimate

borrower has far to seek for a legitimate loan. Of course the courts of law will have to decide many intricate questions with regard to what is left for the creditors, as any assets there may be lie in a foreign country; so perhaps this question of 48 per cent. per annum will also be dealt with. On the moral side of the question no doubts are anywhere expressed.

We observe that the business disposed of by Mr. Justice Crease in the Supreme Court Chambers, on June 21st last, was confined altogether to matters connected with the departed Mr. William Whyte. Five suits in all were disposed of. The first summons was that of Jamieson v. Whyte, for leave to sign final judgment. The order was so made, with county court costs and costs of the application on the Supreme Court scale. Judgment was made final, with Supreme Court costs, in the case of Pemberton & Son v. Whyte, \$900. Carmichael v. Whyte, Fell & Co. v. Whyte, and Weiler Bros. v. Whyte, were disposed of in the same manner, costs being assessed on the county court scale. This is the first day's business. Executions have since been issued, as we learn from a paper of the 23rd ult.

#### INSURANCE NOTES.

The deed of an incendiary is correctly referred to as a "burning shame."—*Atlanta Journal*.

We learn from the *Hartford Daily Courant* that shares of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company's stock were recently sold at 345 ex dividend of July, a handsome price.

The New Brunswick Aid Life Insurance Association, of St. John, N.B., has notified its policy-holders that the business of the association is closed. It was an assessment concern started about four years ago. A circular of 2nd June states that "the prospect of building up the company and establishing it upon a basis where it can pay its policies in full is not good."

Fire requires air; therefore shut all doors and windows. By this means fire may be confined to a single room for a sufficient period to enable the inmates to escape; but the fanning of the wind and the draught will instantly cause the flames to increase with extraordinary rapidity. The most precious moments are at the commencement of a fire. In a room a table-cloth can be used to smother a large sheet of flame, and a cushion may serve to beat it out. The great point is presence of mind. In all large houses buckets of water should be placed on every landing, a little salt being put in the water. Always endeavor to attack the bed of a fire; if you cannot extinguish a fire, shut the window, and be sure and shut the door when making your retreat. A wet silk handkerchief tied over eyes and nose will make breathing possible in the midst of much smoke; a blanket wetted and wrapped around the body will enable a person to pass through a sheet of flame in comparative safety.—[*Ex.*]

The insurance men want a chair of life insurance in the new Chicago university. Our experience with life insurance agents is that the chair is entirely superfluous. The successful life insurance agent needs no college training. He gets there on nerve and not culture.—*The Daily Bee*, Omaha, Neb.

At the annual meeting of the New York State Association of Fire Underwriters, held recently, officers for the ensuing year were chosen as follows: President, T. E. Gallagher; first vice-president, C. L. Hedge; second ditto, J. N. Carothers; treasurer, L. S. Morgan. Executive committee: C. H. Hollister, J. T.

Ryan, J. H. Lindsley, G. M. Elwood, and C. H. Waite.

A handsome and effective-looking piece of machinery is the large chemical engine completed and despatched last week for the far West, bearing the inscription: "Moose Jaw Fire Department, Chemical No. 1." It is what is known as a double hundred chemical, and is more powerful than even the underwriters' rules call for, having six charges ready, and being able to use either end of the cylinder. There accompanies the order an automatic hose reel, Morrison's patent, which is a handy and serviceable machine. Both these do great credit to the maker, Mr. W. Morrison, of Church St., Toronto, who has in hand orders for several of these most desirable fire extinguishers.

Accidents reported to the New York police number more than four hundred a month, of which about ten per cent. are fatal. In May, for instance, 22 persons were killed by falls; 10 were injured by vehicles on the streets. Two were killed by falling out of bed.

Canada, says the *Insurance Monitor*, has never been much of a place for life insurance on the assessment plan. The Dominion's experience in the early days of the craze was sufficient to make the battle between the two classes of organizations sharp and decisive. Our contemporary finds that there are now only six companies doing business on this system, but this is a gain of one over the list of the previous year. There are four Canadian companies, and the Mutual Reserve Fund has for its only associate from the United States the Covenant Mutual.

A Massachusetts judge has decided that he will not enjoin the operations of the Order of the Golden Grail, for the reason that a court of equity should not interfere to protect people who entered into foolish contracts with open eyes. The *Investigator* thinks that the judge has a level head. People who put money into a scheme expecting, by the misfortune of others—the robbing of Peter to pay Paul—to receive two or three dollars for one put in, have a very poor case to take into a court of equity. Better let such people learn by sad experience that such schemes are delusions.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have the following from Hamilton:—In reply to your correspondent, W. H. Conroy, who makes inquiries in your issue of 26th June about coin catalogues, etc., perhaps the following will give him the information he wishes: A very good, if not the best, work on Canadian coins is the "Illustrated Canadian Coin Collector" published by P. A. Breton, 1,664 St. Catharine St., Montreal, price 50 cents. The coin W. H. C. speaks of is not a very rare one, there being several varieties of the same date and pattern, worth from 5c. to 50c. according to state of preservation.

ALEX. LEITH.

#### MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances for week ending 2nd July, 1891, were as under:

	Clearings.	Balances.
June 26 .....	\$1,542,115	\$211,375
" 27 .....	1,557,666	292,507
" 29 .....	805,757	90,503
" 30 .....	1,590,418	347,179
July 2 .....	1,616,790	241,895
Total .....	\$7,112,746	\$1,183,459
Cor. week 1890 .....	\$1,682,051	\$111,972
Cor. week 1889 .....	\$6,967,963	\$975,404