

serviceable in the deliberations of the Senate; more especially were they valued in Committee work. The deceased Senator in earlier years was an Alderman of Toronto and presented the land to that city which now forms the Horticultural Gardens. He was many years a director of the Western Canada Loan Co. and of the North American Life, also Chancellor of Trinity University.

It sounds almost jocular to hear of so wealthy and so prosperous a city as Chicago being in deep water financially. Such, however, is the case. The city has been spending and incurring obligations largely in excess of its income and legal resources. The mayor describes the situation as "calamitous." In consequence all the civic services are to be reduced and according to one Chicago paper, the city "will have to be satisfied for a time with no better administration than a backwoods' village, as there is no money for the police, health, roads, or school departments." The crisis has been coming on for years, and now the citizens of Chicago are put to open shame they will probably show their power, by some decisive reform movement.

We have been favoured with the following special telegram relating to the fire at Glace Bay, Cape Breton.

Glace Bay, C. B., July 25th.—Shortly after midnight fire was discovered in the auction rooms of Gunn & Holley, underneath P. W. A. Hall, on South side of Main street. When volunteer firemen reached the scene of conflagration, fire was spreading rapidly, and it was not long before the store of P. W. A. Hall was a mass of flames. Firemen were greatly hampered on account of scarcity of hose and water, but fought the blaze with unremitting energy. The Mayor wired to Sydney for assistance. Notwithstanding the efforts of firemen, flames spread to Gillis' restaurant and dwelling-house on one side and J. K. McNeil's store on the other side. From last named building flames spread to house owned by John Carmichael.

Citizens felt the town could not be saved, but firemen displayed true grit and at 1.30 o'clock the blaze was under control. The buildings destroyed were P. W. A. building occupied by Gunn & Holley, and the P. W. A. John Carmichael's house, occupied by Mr. Hardigan and family, late of Sydney Mines, a store owned by John McNeil, Daniel Gillis' building, and the one occupied by McIsaac & Cassidy was badly gutted. It is believed that all the buildings and stocks were covered by insurance. Origin of fire is unknown. If it had not been for a downpour of rain the business portion of the town would probably have all been destroyed.

Chief Legault is much to be commended for having decided to protect foot passengers at certain dangerous crossings as THE CHRONICLE urged was desirable.

THE LATEST ABOUT BRITAIN'S COAL SUPPLY.

Professor Geikie, the eminent geologist of Edinburgh University, responding to the curiosity aroused by the coal export tax as to the probable duration of Britain's coal supply, has furnished some interesting statistics relating thereto. He discusses the subject from geological estimates which are up to date, admitting, of course, that the invention of a substitute for coal may upset his calculations. This is not the first occasion on which public anxiety has been manifested in Great Britain as to how long the coal supply there may last. Thirty-five years ago the late Professor Jevons raised a feeling of alarm by stating, on what then appeared to be good scientific grounds, that the British coal-fields would be exhausted in about a hundred years. This statement disturbed British equanimity all the more because a few years before it was made Professor Hull had declared that the supply would last, at least one thousand years, and was, therefore, practically inexhaustible. To allay the general apprehension on the matter a Royal Commission of inquiry was appointed in 1866. After a painstaking investigation it reported that the probable quantity of available coal in the British "visible" coal-fields was 90,207,000,000 tons, while that estimated to exist in workable depths in concealed coal fields was 56,273,000,000 tons, a total of 146,480,000,000, which might reasonably be expected to be available for use, and which would probably last, at the then rate of consumption for 360 years.

Professor Geikie considers the report of the Royal Commission to be too rosy in its estimates; and urges that another Royal Commission should be appointed. With the data at present possessed by scientific experts, he declares that this is the only means by which a reliable estimate of Great Britain's supply of "fossil fuel" may be ascertained. In the meantime he accepts the following estimates of the present British coal supply:—

In "visible" coalfields down to a depth of 4000 feet.....	58,000,000,000 tons
In same coalfields, between 4000 feet and 6000 feet.....	6,000,000,000 "
In "concealed" coalfields down to a depth of 4000 feet.....	24,000,000,000 "
In same coalfield, between 4000 feet and 6000 feet, probably much more than...	8,000,000,000 "
Total....	96,000,000,000 "

Taking the annual output of British coal at 225,000,000 tons, the figures for the beginning of this new century, and allowing an annual increase of 3,000,000 tons, which is the average increase for the past thirty years, Professor Geikie conjectures that Great Britain's whole supply of coal will be exhausted in 189 years. It is not, however, to be taken for granted that the present increasing rate of