

### MINIMISING FIRE RISKS.

In order to lessen the fire hazard and to stay the ravages of fire, the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association has appointed inspectors whose work is to inspect and report upon buildings classed as special risks. By rating each risk on its merits, the lowest possible rate is obtained. In rating, reference is had to the construction of the building, the position and construction of the boiler house, if steam be used, and its connection with the factory. Favorable allowances are made for the providing of means for preventing or extinguishing fires, also the providing of watchman and watch clock, the use of steam heating instead of stoves, the choice of gas or electric light, instead of coal oil, and the fire insurance of those who take the precautions recommended costs less than that of those who do not. *The Montreal Times*, commenting on the above, says: "It is no uncommon thing for persons to apply, before erecting new buildings, to the secretaries of the association for hints as to the construction of the proposed building, with the view of obtaining the lowest possible insurance rate. During the past year, 1,918 special risks in Ontario were thus inspected and reported upon, and \$36 in the province of Quebec—24 of the latter being in the city of Montreal.

### EDITORIAL NOTES.

During the season just closed, the shipments of eggs from Canada to Great Britain amounted to forty thousand cases, or 1,600,000 dozen. These eggs brought prices which enabled the farmers and exporters to gain a handsome profit.

Mr. Mercier Government has been ordered by Lieut.-Governor Angers of Quebec to face to the left about and shift for themselves. But Mr. Mercier says he won't go and threatens to remain in office in order to save his cherished province.

CANNOB beet root be successfully grown in British Columbia? The sugar produced from it and the industry connected with its production are increasing in favor almost everywhere. Sugar of this description, with all the augmented production, about two shillings per cwt. dearer in the English market.

The Manitoba Government have issued a crop bulletin. It shows that the grain which has been grown in the province this year was remarkable in its quantity. Of wheat, there is 23,191,599 bushels; of oats, 11,722,505, and of barley, 3,197,876 bushels. This makes a grand total of 40,152,080 bushels of grain, averaging 2,200 bushels for every farmer in the province.

AMERICAN corn promises to assume an important place in the manufacture of soap in Germany. Hitherto the manufacturers have used linseed oil procured in Russia, but owing to the failure of the crop there they were compelled to look in other directions for a supply of oil. East Indian linseed oil was tried, but supplies

are now being obtained from Chicago, and the chances are that the trade now will equal 30,000,000 or 40,000,000 bushels yearly.

THE bankruptcy returns of the last half year show that one male adult in every seven engaged in commercial, financial, and industrial lines fills the position of chief executive partner or proprietor; that one in every 45 engaged in business fails each half year, with liabilities in excess of assets; that one in every four engaged in business fails each half year, but without much financial loss to others. Aggregating failures of both varieties, it appears that one in every four have failed, on an average, each year during the past ten years; and, judging from the preliminary inquiry into causes of business failures, it would seem that 40 per cent. of the failures where liabilities exceed assets are due primarily to faults of those failing.

THE *British Trade Journal* contains the following in its December number:—"Shippers to India, Australia and China have been notified of an important decision with reference to bills of lading just arrived at by the leading banks having branches in those parts of the world. The managers of these banks state that their attention having been drawn to a clause in some of the bills of lading which gives the shipowner a lien and right of sale by public auction over the goods shipped thereunder, not only for freight and charges due thereon, but also for unsatisfied freight and other amounts due to the shipowner either from the shipper or consignee, they give notice that they shall decline to receive as security for an advance any bill of lading which gives the shipowner a right of lien for more than the freight and charges on the goods shipped thereunder."

"MR. HOWARD VINCENT, as the originator and chief apostle of the Empire Trade League, has recently been in Japan 'blowing a blast,' as the local newspapers put it, 'which heralds a condition of trade that must come to pass in the near future.' He has already converted Canada, it appears, to his ideas of commercial federation; and he is probably now on his way to Australasia." The above is from an English trade journal, which has been wrongly informed on this subject, for to our mind Mr. Vincent, judging from the receptions he has had in the Eastern provinces, is a long way off having "converted Canada." He would do well in the meantime to look at home and to take the advice given him by the paper from which we quote:—"The British public knows little or nothing about Mr. Howard's scheme; and it looks very much as though his friends have not sufficient confidence in its efficacy to stand up for it. As for Mr. Vincent, if he has his idea at heart, he should be among the working men voters of Shoreditch or Battersea rather than wasting his eloquence in places thousands of miles from the centre in which it is being weighed and found wanting."

### BANK OF MONTREAL.

Statement of the result of the business of the bank for the half-year ended 31st October, 1891:—

Balance of profit and loss account, 30th April, 1891 .....	\$139,728 30
Profits for the half-year ended 31st October, 1891, after deducting charges of management, and making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts. ....	666,612 93
	<u>\$1,100,371 23</u>
Dividend 5 per cent., payable 1st December, 1891 .....	600,000 00

Balance of profit and loss carried forward .....

NOTE.—Market price of Bank of Montreal Stock 31st October, 1891, 227 per cent. (equal to \$151 per share).

#### GENERAL STATEMENT—31st October, 1891.

Liabilities.	
Capital stock .....	\$12,000,000 00
Reserve .....	\$6,000,000 00
Balance of profits carried forward .....	506,371 23
	<u>\$6,506,371 23</u>
Unclaimed dividends .....	4,786 85
Half-yearly Dividend, payable 1st Dec., 1891 .....	600,000 00
	<u>\$7,111,158 08</u>
	<u>\$19,111,158 08</u>
Notes of the bank in circulation .....	\$5,397,602 00
Deposits not bearing interest .....	7,649,536 30
Deposits bearing interest .....	19,324,509 49
Balances due to other banks in Canada .....	3,497 59
	<u>\$32,375,145 38</u>
	<u>\$51,486,303 46</u>

#### Assets.

Gold and silver coin current .....	\$2,038,150 12
Government demand notes .....	2,011,697 75
Deposit with Dominion Gov't required by Act of Par'm't for security of general bank note circulation .....	135,000 00
Due by Agencies of this bank and other banks in foreign countries .....	11,913,565 98
Due by Agencies of this bank and other banks in Great Britain .....	3,022,034 25
	<u>\$14,935,600 23</u>
Government bonds, India stock, etc. ....	1,308,900 00
Notes and Cheques of other banks .....	1,200,003 86
	<u>\$21,628,471 96</u>
Bank premises at Montreal and branches .....	600,000 00
Current loans and discounts, (rebate interest reserved) and other securities and assets .....	\$28,714,729 33
Debts secured by mortgage or otherwise .....	432,834 65
Overdue debts not specially secured (loss provided for) .....	110,167 52
	<u>\$29,257,831 50</u>
	<u>\$51,486,303 46</u>

F. S. CLOUSTON,  
General Manager.

BANK OF MONTREAL.  
MONTREAL 31st October, 1891.