

**HEAVY MINNESOTA LOSSES.**—Fire insurance companies sustained heavy losses in Minnesota last year. Advance sheets of Commissioner O'Shaughnessy's report indicate that not only did the underwriting business prove unprofitable, but that fourteen companies lost money and had to have help from the home offices. This is a condition practically without parallel in Minnesota, but of late the loss has been heavy all over the United States.—*N. Y. Post.*

**A TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITY.**—The strict responsibility of a trustee for trust securities committed to his care is pointed out by Mr. Justice Stover, of the New York Supreme Court, in the recent case of the Colonial Trust Company vs. Morrison. Morrison, while trustee of an estate, employed the well-known Francis S. Weeks, at the time a lawyer of high standing and good reputation, but who subsequently was sent to Sing Sing for misappropriation of trust funds, as his attorney and agent, allowed Weeks to handle the trust funds, and to discharge certain duties of trustee in his, Morrison's stead. Weeks misapplied some of the trust moneys, and subsequently succeeded Morrison as trustee. Subsequently, the Colonial Trust Company succeeded Weeks as trustee, and called

Morrison to account. It seems that some of the securities had been in Week's possession as attorney before Morrison's appointment as trustee. These securities Morrison left in Week's control. Morrison claimed that he had discharged all his duties as trustee, and that, under the circumstances, he was not responsible for the acts of Weeks. But the Justice directed an accounting, saying: "A trustee is not relieved from the obligation of looking after the estate committed to his charge by the employment of another person to discharge his duties. The duties of a trustee are personal, involving personal integrity and ability, and a trustee cannot escape this personal responsibility by employing another, however capable, or of whatever high standing and character; and a third person is nothing but the agent of the trustee, for whom the trustee is responsible. It is not enough that he employs a competent agent, but he must see to it that the trust is fully carried out; and upon him personally devolves the duty of discharging the duty of trustee, and this duty cannot be delegated to as to relieve the trustee of legal responsibility. Again, in this case, it is quite apparent that, if the trustee had given the attention which the law requires to his duty as trustee, he would have discovered that the funds which Weeks obtained upon the collection of certain securities were not reinvested for the benefit of the trust estate, but were invested in securities which were taken in the name of Weeks individually.



**SEALED TENDERS** addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Pier in the Lower Division of the Harbour of Montreal," will be received at this office until Friday, the 20th day of July, 1900, for the construction of a high level pier and bulkheads in the Lower Division of the Harbour of Montreal, Que.

Plans and specifications can be seen at this Department and at the offices of Henry A. Gray, Esq., Resident Engineer, Confederation Life Building, Toronto; C. Desjardins, Esq., Clerk of Works, Post Office, Montreal; Ph. Beland, Esq., Clerk of Works, Post Office Building, Quebec; E. T. P. Shewen, Esq., Resident Engineer, St. John, N.B.; and C. E. W. Dodwell, Esq., Resident Engineer, Halifax, N.S.

Tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, and signed with the actual signatures of tenderers.

An accepted bank cheque, payable to the order of the Minister of Public Works, for fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), must accompany each tender. The cheque will be forfeited if the party decline the contract or fail to complete the work contracted for, and will be returned in case of non-acceptance of tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,  
JOS. R. ROY,  
Acting Secretary.

Department of Public Works of Canada,  
Ottawa, June 20th, 1900.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the Department will not be paid for it.

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