

Knickerbocker, Sterling, and St. Nicholas Insurance Companies, under date of the 21st inst. The two former companies *did not belong* to the Board organization, and the cream of the joke is in turning out companies *that never were in*. Seriously, however, the *fracas* between the Board and the Metropolitan Fire Insurance Co. will have a bad effect on the future working of the New York and National Boards.

A complete re-organization of the Board of Fire Commissioners is one of the results of a new charter for this city recently passed by the State Legislature. It now consists of three commissioners with an aggregate salary of \$19,000, viz., President, \$7,000, and each of the other members \$6,000 each. The board recently organized by the election of their late Chief Engineer of the Fire Department, Joseph L. Perley, as President. This appointment is considered a good one, as Mr. Perley has had a large amount of experience in the business of fire extinguishing, and the interests of the community and the companies will be benefitted by his connection with the department.

Among our latest accessions in the way of foreign companies is that of the Hamburg Bremen Insurance Co., which has been operating in San Francisco for sixteen years, but which has now made New York City its centre of operations for the United States.

Some other companies in the neighboring States are contemplating a visit to Gotham, besides some new companies are being talked of. The latest company which was formed here was the Emporium Fire Insurance Co., with a paid up capital of \$200,000, and now we hear of the Amity Fire Insurance Co., which is being engineered to a successful completion. Among the officers, Mr. Nathan Harper, late secretary of the defunct Security Fire Insurance Co., is spoken of as secretary. The Universal Fire Insurance Co., of which I wrote in former letters, is still struggling to secure the necessary capital and has a good chance of success.

On the whole, the underwriting interest in New York promises well. The petty jealousies which creep into organizations intended to effect good, and from which the National and New York Board of Underwriters can hardly expect to be exempt, do not, as a rule, make much impression on the general public, and in this way the ripples now on the surface will pass away and our underwriters be once again in smooth water.

LIFE INSURANCE.

The most notable event in connection with life insurance which I have to refer to is the formation of an association known as the *Chamber of Life Insurance*, which is nothing more than an association of several of our prominent Life Companies looking towards mutual co-operation in the protection of life insurance interests. When the existence of the Chamber became known the impression created (or sought to be) on the public mind that it boded no good to the public. The most extravagant reports went abroad as to its objects, which it was supposed were hostile to competition and favorable to combinations; but a little inquiry dispelled any such idea. The companies have simply established an association having for its objects the protection of life insurance interests and the repression, as far as possible, of the tendency to unnecessary hostile legislation, which seems to be the order of the day. The Chamber has now made public its objects, and the daily press are awfully crest-fallen. The officers of the Chamber are:—President, Morris Franklin, of the New York Life Insurance Co.; Vice-President, Nathan D. Morgan, of the North American Life, and Secretary and Treasurer, Sheppard Homans, the well known Actuary.

The English-Winston insurance investigation or muddle is at last ended. The committee

made both a majority and minority report, for and against the company. English has had his bail reduced to \$2,000, and he is now a "Free man." He and George Francis Train gave up jail-keeping together, and as I have no other news equal to this item I must close.

COSMO.

Insurance.

FIRE RECORD.—St. John, May 31.—The St. John papers report several fires lately. Col. West's saw mill, Fredericton, together with a barn belonging to Tower & Co. In Carleton. A Carpenter's house and outbuildings; D. McMullin's barn, shed, etc., were burned. Carpenter was insured in the Liverpool & London & Globe for \$1200. In Hampton the "Kehoe" property was destroyed, and Snow's house adjoining destroyed. The building was owned by J. & J. Hagar, of St. John, and insured in the Queen for \$1400. John E. Smith's saw mill, known as the Brantford Mill, in Blissville, Sunbury Co., was destroyed, also the dwelling of Mr. Patchell.

Rondeau, June 7.—The saw mill and spoke factory of Morris & Ash took fire and was destroyed; loss stated at \$75,000; insurance not yet known.

Norwich, June 4.—The saw mill of Matthew Deans, on lot No. 24, 1st con. of Windham, was destroyed, with nearly 200,000 feet of lumber. Insured for \$800. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Peterborough, June 6.—P. Ryan's tannery, on Simcoe street and the wooden buildings surrounding were totally destroyed. His building, machinery, and stock were valued at \$8000, and insured for about \$4000. Mr. Bradburn's buildings were worth about \$500, and were insured for \$250. Mr. T. Cavanagh's stable and contents were valued at \$800, and were insured for \$300. The Dixon estate stables were insured for \$400.

Kingston, June 7.—Calvin & Breck's bakery, boiler works &c., on Garden Island were burned, loss stated at \$15,000, no insurance.

Toronto, June 7.—A fire broke out in the boarding house of Mrs. Trimmer, 391 Queen street west, and did considerable damage. Insured in the Home District Mutual for \$800.

Halifax, June 7.—Fire have been raging at several places all this week in each of the counties of Yarmouth, Shelbourne and Queens, and at various points in the Province doing a great deal of damage.

BOSTON FIRE.—The losses by the Boston fire of the 30th ult., as nearly as they can be ascertained before adjustment, are as follows: Alps, Erie, \$4,600; American, Philadelphia, \$25,000; Arctic, New York, \$4,500; Aetna, Hartford, \$30,000; Aetna, New York, \$10,000; Brewers', Milwaukee, \$13,000; Brewers' and Maltsters', New York, \$10,000; Black River, New York, \$5,000; Bangor, Maine, \$3,000; Continental, New York \$5,000; Clinton, New York, \$2,000; Columbia, New York, \$15,000; Commercial Union, England, \$30,000; Connecticut, Hartford, \$10,000; Citizens', Newark, N. J. \$2,500; Citizens', New York, \$8,000; Exchange, New York, \$2,500; Fire Association, Philadelphia, \$9,000; Franklin, Philadelphia, \$21,000; Firemen's, New York, \$5,000; Firmen's Fund, California \$10,000; Girard, Philadelphia, \$5,000; Guardian, New York, \$9,000; Germania, New York, \$15,000; German-American, New York, \$12,000; Hartford, Connecticut, \$15,000; Home, New York, \$30,000; Hoffman, New York, \$5,000; Hanover, New York, \$10,000; Home, Columbus, O. \$5,000; Irving, New York, \$5,000; Imperial, London, \$14,000; Ins. Co., State of Pennsylvania, \$15,000; Liverpool and London and Globe, England, \$50,000; London Assur-

ance, England, \$19,000; Lancashire, England, \$20,000; Lamar, New York, \$1,500; Manufacturers' Mutual, Boston, \$25,000; National, Hartford, \$8,000; Niagara, New York, \$9,000; National, Philadelphia, \$7,500; North America, Philadelphia, \$30,000; North Missouri, \$7,500; New York and Yonkers, \$1,000; North British and Mercantile, \$10,000; National, New York, \$9,000; Orient, Hartford, 12,000; Phenix, N. Y. \$12,000; Phoenix, Hartford, \$14,000; Pennsylvania Fire, \$25,000; Queen, England, \$20,000; Republic, N. Y. \$5,000; Relief, N. Y. \$7,500; Royal, \$100,000; Star, N. Y. \$6,500; Standard, N. Y. \$1,500; St. Paul, Minn. \$5,000; State of Penna. \$25,000; Traders', Chicago, \$5,000; Trademans', N. Y. \$5,000; Union Mutual, Phila. \$5,000; Union, Bangor, 15,000; Williamsburg City, N. Y. \$10,000; Westchester N. Y. \$29,000. In some cases these will be considerably reduced by salvages. The figures given by several Boston companies we have not published because we do not believe them reliable.—*Chronicle*.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKET.

From our own Reporter.

MONTREAL, June 10, 1873.

During the week we have had fine warm rains which have brought forward vegetation very fast, the grass which was getting dried up has improved and crops of all kinds both in the field and gardens are all that could be desired, the prospects of fruit especially apples are very good and an abundant yield is looked for.

Business has not improved much since my last report, and dullness pervades all branches of trade. Dry goods are still very quiet. Breadstuffs dull and lower. Provisions quiet but steady. Ashes easier. Groceries are in light demand, but prices generally are well maintained. Drugs and Chemicals quiet but steady.

A good deal of activity on the wharves, the harbor being pretty well filled with sea-going vessels, but the tonnage offering is not quite equal to the demand and rates are again advanced. The addition to the freight steamers running between this port and Chicago has been made this week, the River and Lake Steam Navigation Company having placed their new steamer the *Lake Erie* on the route, she is a fine vessel, carries a large cargo, has splendid accommodation for passengers, and as she is built so as to secure carrying capacity combined with speed she promises to become a general favorite on the line.

ASHES.—*Pots*—There has been a fair business done this week for shipments, but late prices have not been maintained the sales were chiefly of first sort at \$6.60 to 6.50 towards the close a further decline took place to \$6.45 to 6.55; seconds \$5.90 to 6; thirds, very little movement in this description at \$5.50. *Pearls*—Market dull. In the early part of the week sales of first were made at \$9.10 to 9.25, to-day nothing over \$8.75 to 8.80 would be paid. No sales of second sort transpiring. The stocks at present in store are pots, 1,897 brls; pearls, 161 brls.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—We cannot report much improvement in this branch of trade, which is quiet but steady at the following rates:—Men's No. 1 stogas, \$2.50 to 2.75; ditto No. 2, \$2.25 to 2.30; kip clump, \$3; calf clump, \$3.75; calf congress, \$2.50 to 3.00; boys' boots, \$2 to 2.25; women's calf boots, DS, \$1.30; ditto buff, DS, \$1.25; ditto buff congress, DS, \$1.35; ditto balmorals, DS, \$1.40 to 1.60.

CATTLE.—The supply of cattle on our stand