

Insurance Briefs.

It is gratifying to note that the Ontario Legislature is taking steps to provide for the safe exit of guests and others from hotels, etc., in case of fire.

FIRE AND LIFE.—"Papa," said a ten-year older who was picking her way through a daily paper, "I see that the premiums in Dr.—'s church are over a hundred dollars. Why do they charge more than you pay?" "Because, dear, they are insuring for the next life, and that congregation is composed of very bad risks"—*Weekly*.

Facts gathered from insurance sources show that life insurance made great progress in the United States last year. The new insurances written amounted to over \$400,000,000, while more than \$70,000,000 was paid to policy holders. The policies in force at end of year were over 800,000 covering over \$2,000,000,000. It is thought that the year will show larger figures even than the above.

Insurance against strikes is the latest "notion" in underwriting. There is much difference of opinion among underwriters as to the desirability of such application of insurance. Some say it would diminish the evil, if it be an evil; others contend that it would promote strikes. In any case the probability is that that style of insurance will not be in great demand for some time to come. It has been suggested that insurance against boycott would be a desirable "new departure."

Toronto Sympathy.

That the manufacturers and wholesale dealers of the east, who have trade connections in Manitoba, thoroughly sympathize with the effort to free the Province from railway monopoly is beyond doubt, for their knowledge of our affairs gathered from experience, shuts them out from any other feelings than those of sympathy with Manitoba.

The following letter to the publisher of THE COMMERCIAL from a Toronto manufacturing firm voices the feelings of the majority of the class we refer to:

32 Colborne Street, Toronto,

February 17th, 1888.

JAMES E. STEEN, Esq., Winnipeg.

Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of THE COMMERCIAL of the 13th inst., and think it our duty to congratulate you on the production.

Your paper is most valuable to us, and we appreciate your gallant fight for Manitoba's rights.

During the past five years we have done a very satisfactory business with Winnipeg merchants, and we wish you and them every success.

We remain, yours respectfully,

LATHAM & LOWE.

Western Notes.

A public meeting was held at Morden, Man., recently, to discuss the question of fire protection. A scheme to raise \$5,000 for the purpose was submitted by the committee, but the majority of those present voted it down, as being too great an expenditure for the town. Nothing was consequently done.

The Calgary Tribune has issued a very useful almanac for 1888, for which enterprise it deserves credit.

J. Deacon has been appointed agent at Calgary for the sale of the lumber from Wells' mill, at Palliser, B.C. He will open a yard at that place.

L. Stockton, merchant tailor, Brandon, has been enlarging and refitting up his establishment. The store is now one of the handsomest in that city.

J. G. Chalmers, general merchant, Moose Jaw, Assa., will make large additions in the spring to his present store by building next to it a larger one of lime stone. The store will be heated with the hot air system.

The ship Pacific Slope has completed loading lumber at the Moodyville Mills, B.C., for Sydney, Australia. There are still three ships loading at the mills, two for Australia and one for the western coast trade.

Two brothers by the name of Rodger, were at Balmoral last week. It is reported they were taking a look at the mill with a view of purchasing. If such be the case there is no doubt they will do well, as both are practical millers.—*Stonewall (Man.) News*.

Calgary Tribune: Mr. Beveridge, of the Rosobud sheep ranche, reports that sheep have wintered fully as well as cattle, and that the losses will scarcely be three per cent. According to this there is every prospect of a prosperous year with the sheep men.

Edmonton (Sask.) Bulletin: A trader, nicknamed Shot, arrived recently at Lac la Biche from Chipewyan. He reports that Colin Fraser, who left Edmonton for Chipewyan last spring, is making a good trade, but that most of the traders are doing very little. Shot himself has 500 beaver.

At the last meeting of the Brandon council, a communication was laid before the council from Mr. Timewall, of Winnipeg, to the effect that a company is being organized to build elevators at different points throughout the province, and asking assistance. On motion it was filed.

Mr. Higgins has given notice in the British Columbia legislature of a series of resolutions in reference to the fisheries treaty protesting against the overlooking of the Behrings Sea question by the commission, which means a practical surrender of the rights of British subjects on the Pacific coast.

The financial statement for the town of Regina, for 1887, is as follows: Receipts—Balance on hand, \$26.92; taxes, 1886, \$2,113; taxes, 1887, \$1,586.23; takes, 1885, \$9.50; taxes, non-resident, 275.62; town hall, \$453; licenses, \$419.50; dog tax, \$85.50; J. Secord, loan, \$810; D. McDonald, loan, \$250; Lafferty & Smith, loan, \$876.60; overpaid order, \$7.85; total, \$6,913.72. Expenditure—Fire, water and light, \$660.99; health, \$7; interest on debentures, \$900; town hall, \$1,120.02; salaries, \$674.35; public works, \$1,337.23; school, \$1,250; stationery and printing, \$46.07; parks, \$118.40; school, \$250; Lafferty & Smith, \$200; G. T. Marsh, \$50; sundries, \$227.80; balance on hand, \$70.96; total, \$6,913.72.

Calgary Tribune: Word comes from all directions, north, east, south and west, that the losses among the stock this year so far are nothing. Different parties who have been riding over the country in all directions inform us that they have not seen a dead animal in the whole country. This certainly is very encouraging both to the large stockmen and likewise to the small rancher and in fact to the entire community.

Rapid City Spectator: A letter from Winnipeg indicates that we may expect to have pretty good times in Rapid City during the coming summer, as it is very likely that the Northwest Central Railway Company will make this their head-quarters for supplies. Our merchants should look to it and secure the contracts for supplies. The building of this railway and the marketing of grain that cannot possibly be marketed this winter should put a large amount of money in circulation in this district and, as the letter says, make lively times in Rapid City.

How to Frighten Drummers.

Friend—Don't you have a great many drummers coming in and boring you with their samples and their talk?

Merchant—A good many drummers come in here, but they don't bore me.

"Don't they ask you to look at their samples?"

"No."

"Don't they ask you to give them orders?"

"No; they go right out without saying a word."

"How do you manage to get rid of them?"

"It's the simplest thing in the world. I put a plug hat and an open grip sack on the counter every morning. When a drummer sees these signs of another drummer being on the premises he goes off. Every ten minutes in the day a drummer comes to the door, looks at the grip sack, and goes away, and I am left in peace."—*Texas Siftings*.

A. S. SMITH, stoves, tinware, etc., Moosomin, Assa., will open a branch at Elkhorn, Man.

THE Calgary Aerated Water Company has commenced operations, under the management of D. R. Clarke.

D. McLEAN and John Mooney have entered into partnership to carry on business as dealers in lumber, shingles, etc., at Virden, Man.

Passengers from and to California via the C. P. R. will now go via Puget Sound ports and thence by rail over the Northern Pacific to Portland, and thence by the California and Oregon lines. The long trip by water is done away with by the completion of the railway between Portland and San Francisco. The fare by the C. P. R. from San Francisco to eastern points will, it is said, be \$10 cheaper than by the other transcontinental lines. Owing to the greater length of the trip a lower fare is given to induce travel.

First-class passenger fares from Yokohama via the C. P. R. Pacific steamers are reported as follows:—

To Vancouver (Mexican gold).....	\$160 00
To Victoria and San Francisco.....	175 00
To all common points in Canada and the United States.....	200 00
To Liverpool.....	300 00
To London.....	305 00