

**TURKISH FIRE-FIGHTING.****What Happens in Constantinople when a Blaze is Discovered.**

Such European insurance companies as do business in Turkey are hoping that the Young Turk regime may do something to make underwriting there less precarious than at present. According to the New York Journal of Commerce, nothing more strikingly illustrates the prevalence of graft in Turkey than a fire in Constantinople. Although the capital possesses a municipal fire department, it is so poorly organized and so notoriously insufficient that the business of fire-fighting—which is a highly lucrative one—is almost wholly in the hands of fire bands, composed of the roughest elements of the population.

When a fire is discovered the fact is announced to the city by the firing of a cannon from the Galata Tower—and the hoisting of a flag whose colour indicates the general district of the fire. The various fire bands of that particular district promptly respond, the primitive pumping machines being carried on the shoulders of a score of brawny runners. Arrived at the scene of conflagration no effort is made to extinguish it unless it should be a government building or the residence of an official. The fire captains enter, instead, into heated negotiations with the owners of the adjoining buildings for the saving of their property, a typical dialogue given by a writer on Turkey being as follows:

"One hundred golden liras," says the captain of a fire company to a terrified merchant, "and we will save your shop. See how close the flames approach." "By the beard of the prophet, but I do not possess so vast a sum," returns the merchant. "Methinks, however, I could scrape together ten gold pieces for you and your sturdy men if you save my goods from destruction." "I have no time to waste in chaffing," growls the captain; "but I once knew your father, who was indeed a godly man and less tight-fisted than his son, and out of respect for him will I save your wretched shop for eighty liras and not a medjidie less." "Twenty! I will give you twenty," pleads the merchant, "though to do it must I take the bread from the mouths of my children." "Out of the goodness of my heart will I do it for sixty," says the fireman. "Look! The flames even now are scorching your walls!" "Thirty liras! I will make it thirty, but be quick or I will lose all," wails the shop-keeper, as a tongue of flame leaps hungrily towards his dwelling. "Thirty-five it is then," says the captain, "but paid in advance, and may Sheitan fly away with you, you miserly son of a pig!" He roars out an order; his half-naked brigands spring to the pumps and work like madmen, while others throw themselves at the flaming buildings with axes, hooks and poles. Thus is the capital of the Empire guarded from fire.

THE CONCILIATION BOARD acting in the dispute between the Dominion Coal Company and the United Mine Workers' Association of America issued a majority report a week ago in favour of the company. It states that the powers sought by this foreign-controlled union would be a menace to the Canadian industry. A strike is now threatened.

**Prominent Topics.****Board of Control or Board of Works.**

The Private Bills Committee has adopted an amendment to the Montreal City Bill which provides for submitting to the electors on the third Monday of September next, the question whether an elective commission is to take over the administration of the city. To secure the appointment of the commission, twenty-five per cent. of the total vote must be polled and unless a majority of this twenty-five per cent. votes in favour of the measure, Alderman Lapointe's alternative scheme of a civic board of works will go into operation. To bring out even twenty-five per cent. of the total vote will involve much work and skilful organization. All experience shows that it is hard enough to bring out any considerable electoral vote, even when a number of rival candidates for civic honours are spending money and bringing personal influences to bear to get the voters to the polls. On this occasion the aldermanic influence will no doubt be used, but in most cases to defeat the measure. It is to be presumed however that the members of the Board of Trade and Chambre de Commerce and the thousands of citizens who signed petitions are as much in earnest as they have claimed to be, and will play the game to the end, and play to win. The objects in view, the improvement of the civic services and the saving of civic money are worth a strenuous effort to accomplish. The gentlemen who have secured even this concession from the Legislature should rise to the occasion and without delay plan a vigorous campaign and a complete organization for getting out the vote. The practical value of the Board of Control will of course depend much upon the method of its election. The popular vote would probably elect the same class of men to the Board of Control, as it now elects to the City Council. The members should be expert business men such as would probably be chosen by the Board of Trade, the Chambre de Commerce and the Provincial Government.

**The Canada Furniture Manufacturers, Limited.**

This company has removed its general offices to Woodstock, Ont., where its largest factory is situated and it intends concentrating its business as far as possible there. Woodstock because of its central position and its shipping facilities is well situated for this purpose. Among the benefits to be derived should be a big saving in expenses—for, naturally, fewer officials will be required—and it is a matter of no little importance to have the management right in touch with the factories. The company has opened warerooms in Winnipeg, from which it will be in a position to supply the needs of the Western settlers.

**Dominion Coal Employees.**

A strike is threatened among the employees of the Dominion Coal Company, and it is alleged that the movement has been initiated by representatives of the United Mine Workers of America, a foreign organization which is stated to have entrusted its agitators with \$20,000 to create trouble in Canada. Canadian law provides for this kind of foreign interference and the duty of the authorities in this connection is obvious.