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MONTREAL.

All communications, advertisements, etc., intended for insertion in "The Trade Review" should reach this office by Wednesday morning.

INSURANCE NOTES.

Hotel fires, says an expert are nearly all caused by the boiling over of fat on the stove, left there over night.

A Toronto jury has found a verdict that the house of a Mr. Prittie was set on fire by some person unknown. Some one not interested in the insurance probably!

The absence of the Liverpool and London and Globe from the Woodruff's Stores loss list has aroused some curiosity in New York. The fact is that the company stopped writing fibre stores there some time ago. A burnt child dreads the fire.

The June fire losses in U.S. and Canada were:

Total.....	\$7,202,000
Add 15 per cent for small and unreported fires.....	1,080,300

Grand total for June.....\$8,282,300

It is becoming known in Fire Department circles that electric light companies are making it a point to secure early information as to fires caused by electricity, and cases have been discovered where a fire has occurred during the night, and electric light companies have sent to the premises and removed a part of their equipment and repaired the damage before daylight. This may have been done in order to accommodate customers, or to elude subsequent investigation by the underwriters.

In London a new life insurance company has been registered under the title of "The Absolute Life Insurance Company, limited," with a capital of \$100,000 in

shares of £1 each. The company essayed to assume the risks of life in its various ramifications, such as life insurance, accident insurance, accident and life combined, birth insurance, and sickness insurance; also insurance against fraud, infidelity of servants, employers liability, and household insurance, a programme so expansive as to suggest, in order to convey a fuller appreciation of the magnitude of its usefulness, the substitution of the word "comprehensive" for that assumed as the initial word of its title.

Mr. Arthur Grundy, formerly of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company, is organizing in New York something quite new in the fire insurance line. It will be called "The Insurance Trust," and Mr. Grundy will issue a policy of insurance as an individual underwriter. He is backed up by six or eight men, who give him a bond that they will put up in the aggregate \$25,000 when needed. Three trustees are to hold 75 per cent of the premium receipts for the security of the policyholders. These trustees are James H. Burnside, of the Liverpool pool and London and Globe Insurance Company; F. Foehrenbach, of F. Foehrenbach & Co., and George L. Hunt, of the Foote Commercial Phosphate Company.

Representatives of companies interested in the recent lumber losses at Dubuque, Iowa, held a meeting in Chicago to hear the reports regarding the origin of the fire and to take action on the same. The attendance was good, the result being the appointment of a General Committee, with power to bring suit against the Chicago & Western Railroad Company on account of the companies interested and the assured, for what will aggregate damages of \$500,000. The insurance companies lost about \$100,000 in the fire and the loss above insurance will probably exceed \$100,000. The reports received regarding the origin of the fire were concurrent inasmuch as all agreed that the railroad company was responsible for the loss.

For several weeks prior to the fire the engines had been using a mixture of coal with wood and but a few minutes before the fire started a heavy freight train, belching sparks, passed through the yards. Soon after the fire was discovered in the middle of a pile of lumber by the employees of the firm. All of the evidence produced went to prove that the railroad company was responsible for the loss, and it was therefore decided to bring action to recover. The committee appointed consisted of W. S. Warren, Liverpool and London and Globe, chairman; George F. Bissell, Hartford; H. C. Edley, Commercial Union; Eug. N. Cay, German-American; D. Ostrander, Phoenix of Brooklyn.

The Mutual Benefit Company an assessment concern said by the Insurance Journal to have been honestly conducted, and which has endured for twenty years, having been organized in 1871, has yielded to the inevitable, from its inability to meet the claims of advancing age. The auditor appointed by the court pronounces it an honest undertaking, but finds that in May 1893 its liabilities are \$1,500,000 and the value of its assets \$1,060,000. The managers of the company finding its incompetency to meet engagement sought to re-insure, and the New York Life has agreed

to receive all their risks from May 1893, and the auditor recommended that these should be so transferred together with the balance in hand of \$416,991.91. The auditor reports as follows.

As soon as this state of affairs was discovered, the officers sought to protect its members by practically reinsuring the risks. Negotiation were entered into which resulted in the New York Life Insurance Company agreeing to reinsure all the risks and take over the whole business of the mutual company as of May 1, 1893, the only difference being that the amount to be paid by the New York company to the beneficiaries of members is somewhat less than that for which the mutual was responsible.

The auditor finds that all taxes and debts due by Mutual company have been fully paid. He recommends that the company be dissolved and the balance of \$416,991.91 be transferred to the New York company.

The U. S. Senate has agreed to the following amendment offered by the Finance Committee to the Tariff bill:

Section 2,981.—The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized, except as otherwise specially provided in this Act, upon production of satisfactory proof to him of the actual injury or destruction, in whole or in part, of any merchandise from any cause whatsoever, while the same remained in the custody of the officers of the customs in any public or private warehouse under bond, or in the Appraiser's stores undergoing appraisal, in pursuance of law or regulations of the Treasury Department or while in transportation under bond from the port of entry to any other port in the United States, or while in the custody of officers of the customs and not in bond, or while within the limits of any port of entry, and before the same have been landed under the supervision of the officers of the customs, to abate as refund, as the case may be, out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the amount of import duties paid, securing thereupon, and likewise to cancel any warehouse bond or bonds, or enter satisfaction thereon, in whole or in part, as the case may be.

The Hamilton new building by-law contains the following excellent clauses:

Every mansard roof shall for the purposes of this by-law be considered as a storey, and such storey must be divided by brick or stone partition walls as hereinafter provided when such partition walls are extended to the storey next below it.

Every building within such fire limits which is to be divided into one or more stores, tenements or dwellings, and whether the same is being newly constructed or is being altered or rebuilt, shall be so divided by brick or stone partition walls running from the front to the rear of such building and extending from the foundation to the full height of each partition, such partition walls to be not less than eight and one-half inches in thickness, if not extending more than three storeys in height but if extending beyond that height, such partition walls up to and inclusive of the third storey shall be not less than twelve inches in thickness and the partition of walls above the third storey shall not be less than eight and one half inches in thickness, and all such partition walls where they divide the top storey of a building shall be continued and built up to a height of twelve inches above the roof.

No timber shall be placed within one