

all risks consequent on his conduct of it. But where two men are carrying on different trades the fairer rule would appear to us to be, that laid down by the American courts, viz, that each party is liable for the consequences of his acts occasioned by want of proper care, but that apart from this i.e. as to accidents, each party takes his own risks. The Dominion Government has recently refused to hold itself responsible for damage done to the property of two farmers, by fire originating from the sparks of an Intercolonial R. R. engine. The Minister of Railways admitted that the claim was equitable; adding—incorrectly it now seems—but not legally admissible.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BEAVER; Lindsay.—We have not complete data, write J. Bell, Forsyth & Co., Quebec, for their circular, or to J. B. Snowball at Miramichi. We find in the St John, N. B., *News* of a recent date the following figures, which indicate the comparative cut of lumber in that Province this winter as compared with those of last year. They include, also, operations on the Aroostook and Upper St. John waters and in Maine, where the logging is mostly conducted by New Brunswick parties. The falling off is close upon one-half.

SUP. FEET.	1883.	1884.
Upper St. John.....	42,000,000	17,000,000
Aroostook River.....	70,000,000	36,000,000
St. John River (scattering)	12,000,000	8,000,000
Nashwaak .....	28,000,000	16,000,000
St. Croix.....	20,000,000	12,000,000
Grand Lake.....	12,000,000	7,000,000
Bay Shore (est'd).....	25,000,000	14,000,000
T. W. Miramichi.....	90,000,000	50,000,000
S. W. Miramichi.....	36,000,000	17,000,000
Restigouche.....	15,000,000	6,000,000
North Shore (scattering) ..	36,000,000	20,000,000
Total.....	386,000,000	203,000,000

S. B.; Kingston.—With respect to the weather prevailing in the Canadian North West, Major Bell, of the Bell Farm at Indian Head, N.W.T., telegraphed on Monday last:—"The weather here is most favourable for farming, and two weeks earlier than last season. A full staff is at work in the fields." Further west, near the Rocky Mountains, we hear that the spring opened still earlier.

N. W. R.; Kincardine.—Glad of the suggestion. We have procured the information and print it to-day.

T. D. K. writes as follows:—"I am twenty-eight years old, and am offered to be insured for \$1000 for fifteen years at \$32.25 per year, Tontine plan. At the end of that time I am to have my choice of \$736 00 cash or of a paid-up policy for \$1000, and \$29.00 per annum as long as I live, or if I am in a healthy state a paid-up policy for \$2,060. Can the North-American company carry out these terms, and is the system, which I think well of, a good one.

[The Tontine system is workable, and the company named is respectable. The terms are not materially different from those of other companies doing like business. For example. The Equitable Life while charging \$34.30 per annum gives a larger cash bonus than the one offered here.]

—An enquiry was made in Parliament, a day or two ago, by Mr. Deejardins, with respect to the recent action of the Newfoundland legislature, threatening retaliation against Canadian trade, to which the Finance Minister replied that the matter is engaging the best consideration of the government, and that communications on the subject have been received from the Montreal Board of Trade and Corn Exchange.

—On Monday last, at a meeting of the directors held to discuss a structure for the Bureau of Arts and Manufactures in Quebec, a resolution was passed declaring that the time had arrived when a building to be used for their schools should be erected at once. A deputation was appointed to proceed to Ottawa in connection with the project. Hon. Senator Ross has given ground to erect the institution, and upon it is sure to receive aid from some manufacturers.

—Exports from Hamilton to the United States during March, as declared in the United States consulate, were of the value of \$109,605.

ARTICLES.	VALUE.
Animals.....	\$ 7,350 00
Barley .....	20,964 61
Books.....	1,000 00
Clover seed .....	10,000 00
Hides, skins, etc .....	7,018 72
Household goods .....	4,404 00
Lumber .....	15,459 25
Machines .....	5,288 74
Malt .....	9,261 15
Tea, Japan .....	22,180 79
Tobacco.....	1,184 85
Wool .....	2,505 93

To these items must be added those of peas, turnips, herrings, and cotton waste, and miscellaneous articles.

—Returns from the following cities as to March Customs receipts show the reduced volume of imports this spring compared with last:—

	1884.	1883.
Montreal—customs.....	\$537,073	\$645,496
Toronto .....	285,273	344,744
St. John N.B. .....	76,362	104,974
Halifax .....	166,595	215,220
Ottawa .....	22,539	.....
Kingston .....	15,214	.....

—Mr. George Denoon, formerly secretary to the Canada Fire and Marine Ins. Co., and pretty well known in insurance circles, has been appointed manager of the Canadian department of the British America Ins. Co., and has taken his place in that institution.

EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORT.

BY MR. ALFRED PERRY, UPON THE WATER SUPPLY AND FIRE APPLIANCES OF TORONTO, MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE TORONTO BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS.

"The modern means now adopted by the most important cities and towns on this continent, demand from those interested in the suppression of fire, an amount of energy and intelligence, more than was the case, or required formerly, ere the introduction of the Steam Appliance, Fire Alarm Telegraph, and permanent paid organizations. The want of intelligent heads of departments completely destroys the efficiency of the existing costly appliances as now kept up.

The first impulse to move the Fire Department should emanate from the police, by being on the alert night and day, in discovering fire at the first inception, and then using the Fire Alarm Telegraph to convey the fact to the firemen, whose duty it is to be waiting to respond to the signal. They, on their part, can only subdue a fire unless they can obtain an ample supply of water. Toronto has at its command, Police, Fire Alarm Telegraph and water. The question then is, wherein lies the alleged inefficiency?"

Referring to the false alarms of fire given, with a view of testing the efficiency of the police in giving prompt alarm of fire, the report goes on:—"This last test, you will observe, took place at an early hour, and probably on the most public thoroughfare of your city, demonstrating as it does, that the first essential branch of your City organization to whom is entrusted the duty of discovering fire and indicating it to the next department, is not to be relied on so far as those two tests can be taken as any indication. This being so, the Fire Alarm Telegraph the Fire department as well as that of the Water, is of secondary importance. I followed up my investigation as to how far the Police force of

your city may be found to work in thorough accord with their duty in case of fire.

On this point I have but one opinion, and that is that they believe that their duty is to sound the alarm, but they do not feel their responsibility to the city in this particular as they do in being guardians of the peace. From the head of the central station I could not obtain the slightest record of how many fire alarms were given during the year, or any given period. In talking with the lieutenant and others then present, I gathered from them that such information ought to be obtained from the chief of the fire brigade; they were a separate body governed and controlled by commissioners; they had no interchange of duty or communication with the fire or water department. I would urge on you, from this point, to insist that in future that the police should feel it their position towards the citizens and property holders as much to be on the alert for discovery and suppression of fires as it is to prevent crime. They should be held as responsible for not sounding an early alarm as if they permitted a robbery. Each man should be in possession of a key, with his number on it, so that should he give the alarm none but the chief of the fire brigade should be allowed to release the key from the box. In this way the police would feel that there was a record kept of who gave the alarms, whether they or not. In every city that I have extended my inspection to such record is kept. During the past year I availed myself of the police record of Montreal, where I find that the police there gave 82 alarms out of 253 fires, showing the workings of the department.

The city should be divided into districts. At the first alarm the Sergeant of the nearest police station should proceed with his men to the fire, each station providing ropes.

If a second alarm is given, the men of the next nearest station should proceed to the fire in the same manner.

If a third alarm is given, all men should proceed to the fire.

If the alarm is given by the police, the man should remain at the box, till the arrival of the fireman to inform them as to where it is, should it be required.

Each key should correspond with the sub-constable's number.

Every constable should know where the alarm boxes are situated.

The principal duties of the police at fires, consist in giving help to the firemen, in saving life and property, in watching over property saved from the flames, in preventing robberies, maintaining order, in clearing the streets by roping off the crowd, and in taking special care of the hose, by preventing people and vehicles from passing over them, or otherwise interfering with them.

CHIEF ENGINEER.

"I find it difficult to learn where or with whom is the duty, if not responsibility, of the proper suppression of fires. I find one chief has or is supposed to have an office, which should be in the city hall, the other in no particular locality, but he may at times be found in one of the fire stations. In no other city does this state of things exist, and it should not be permitted in yours. The head of the department to whom the lives and property of Toronto are intrusted for protection, should be equal to its requirements. There is far more responsibility, ability, and attention required from him previous to a fire than when working at it.

The Chief should have his office in a prominent position at the city hall, and should when not at fires be found there as regular as clock work at certain given hours during the day. He should have in the office a telephone and telegraph communication with each fire station, water works, pumping house, work shops and offices, as, also, the central police office. He should have placed in a prominent position before him at the office, a water pressure gauge that would indicate the quantity and pressure of water in or over any section of the city night or day, as well as the pumping house. By such means he would be in a position to know what water is at the disposal of his department to check fire at its inception.

FIRE ALARM TELEGRAPH.

"Since the introduction of this part of our fire appliance, the city has largely increased in size and population, and has largely outgrown the capacity of the existing apparatus. Four circuits, as now, are totally inadequate. Twelve or fifteen would be no more than ample to meet the future increase of the city. To do this the present work would have to be entirely recon-