

flames had eaten their way through the floor and gone out, probably for want of draft. In another closet in the opposite building the stuff for more fire had been prepared in the shape of coal oil-soaked shavings and kindling liberally scattered about on the shelves and floor. In each apartment where the fire had been, or was intended to be set, oil saturated stuff was found. There had also been a hole punched in each ceiling to afford a vent."

"There could be no mistake as to the presence of coal-oil and shavings, and even now the traces of both are discernible in the building. The debris when the fire was extinguished was gathered up by the owner of the block and thrown out; but specimen pieces have been kept. Altogether the diabolical work was well planned and carried out, and it is a miracle it did not succeed better. An examination of the garret or space between the top ceiling and roof has been made, and there is now in possession of Constable J. E. Rogers samples of hardwood shavings and pine kindlings found in the interstices in considerable quantity, and in such a way as shows they were purposely put there to ensure the steady progress of the flames when they reached that part of the building."

In response to a generally-expressed wish, the Mayor's warrant for a coroner's investigation issued on Wednesday following. A jury was empanelled and the owner of the building as well as other witnesses examined on that and the following days. The evidence was of such a nature that Mr. Wright has been committed to stand his trial for having planned to burn the block. Bail was refused by the magistrate, but permitted by the county judge on application. It is proper to say that people who know him refuse to believe Wright could be privy to such an offense. There was \$6,580 insurance on the buildings; \$4,500 in favor of two companies having loans upon the property and \$2000 in favor of himself. The taxes for last year were unpaid, says the *Advance*, and the collector had given notice that they must be paid on the Saturday previous to the fire.

**CONTRACTORS' QUARRELS.**—Messrs. Worthington & Co., Lachine Canal contractors, are in court, a bill in Chancery having been filed against Mr. Worthington by the Messrs. Macdonald, who are the other members of the present firm and were the original contractors for the work. The dispute arises out of \$40,000 worth of machinery and plant put by the Messrs. Macdonald into the concern when Mr. Worthington was admitted as partner. It is claimed that this amount should be passed to the credit of the plaintiffs in the taking of the partnership's accounts. This contention the defendant resists, alleging that under the agreement entered into, this machinery and plant were contributed to the partnership's capital and became at once partnership assets. This view of the arrangement made between the parties was accepted by Vice-Chancellor Proudfoot, before whom the case was tried, as the correct one. The suit was hence dismissed with costs. It is said the plaintiffs mean to carry the case to the Court of Appeal and then to the Supreme Court, if necessary, before abandoning their contention. They have been allowed a week's time by the learned Vice-Chancellor to institute proceedings in ap-

peal—the \$40,000 which is in court being retained in the meantime. Notice of appeal, and the necessary security to entitle the plaintiffs to have the case heard before the Court of Appeal at its next sittings have, we are informed, already been given.

—The prospectus has been issued in St. John, N. B., of a new Marine Assurance Company, to be called the Eastern Marine Insurance Company. The wonder is that some such step was not taken long since in New Brunswick, where the business men are so enterprising as well as shrewd, when in Nova Scotia they are no less than fifteen marine assurance companies of local origin and proprietorship in Halifax, Pictou, Yarmouth and Windsor. New Brunswick possesses 336,974 tons of shipping, represented by 1134 vessels, and St. John lays claim to being the fifth largest shipowning port in the world; paying out every year half a million dollars for marine insurance, so that the city and province may well, as the *Telegraph* puts it, sustain one or two home Marine Assurance Companies. The capital of the proposed company is to be \$200,000, and the first call will be ten per cent. Mr. John Tucker, who has for years been Lloyd's surveyor, is proposed as manager.

—Still another loan company is to be established in London Ont. The Equitable is its name, with a capital of one million dollars and it is stated that all the stock has already been subscribed. Our western citizens certainly have faith in the future of loan companies and the earning-power of money. On the stock list are the names of some good men, and we understand that the first directors are to be, Messrs Daniel Macfie, J. C. Meredith, Simpson H. Graydon, Col. John Walker, Josiah Blackburn, John Geary, Chas. F. Goodhue, Geo. S. Birrell, Jas. Fisher, Moses Masuret, H. D. Long, and John R. Minhinnick.

—Owing to the increase in the deposits of the Royal Loan & Savings' Company of Guelph, the directors have found it necessary to increase its capital so that the deposits may not be in excess of the amount of its stock. In order to do this, \$50,000, will be allotted among the shareholders at a premium of 12 per cent. The stock not taken by the shareholders after the 16th May, if any then remains unallotted, will be offered to the public at 15 per cent. premium. The management of the company thus far appears to have been prudent, and we presume no difficulty will be found in placing the remainder of its stock.

—The Lion Life Insurance Company, limited, of London England, has just made a deposit of \$50,000 with the Dominion Government, and will in a few weeks commence doing business in Canada. This company has a subscribed capital of \$4,600,000 of which \$920,000 has been paid. Among its directors and on its share list are the names of wealthy men, some of them well known by reputation in this country. The income of the

company derived from Canadian policy holders will be controlled and invested here as if it were a native of the Dominion. Mr. Fred Stancliffe, Montreal, so well known in connection with the Reliance Life, has the management here.

—Mr. Fred. A. Ball returned from England about a week ago. While there he was appointed chief agent in Canada for the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., of Liverpool. We expect a copy of the Company's annual report in a few days and will make room for some of its figures. The English & Colonial Fire Insurance Company will be under the management of the same gentleman. We understand that a considerable number of shares has been applied for, and it is expected that its stock books will be opened to the public next week for subscription.

—The Halifax committee, to which it fell to make arrangements for the Dominion Exhibition, in that city in the coming autumn, has set the time. It was decided that the exhibition shall open on Wednesday, 21st September, and continue open till Friday, the 30th. The opening ceremonies are to take place at 2 p.m., on Thursday, the 22nd September next. The industrial portion of the exhibition, including manufactures, arts, implements, etc., is intended to be on view from the opening to the close. The show of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, agricultural and dairy products will be completed during the second week of the fair, when every branch of the exhibition will be in operation.

OIL MATTERS IN PETROLIA.

PETROLIA, MAY 3rd, 1881.

Crude oil is steady at \$1.65 per bbl, the market is quiet and buyers not very anxious.

Refined is quiet at 19cts. London freights. The introduction of the testing instrument adopted by the House of Commons last session will settle the working basis of the trade for the season.

Olein and other mineral lubricating oils in good demand.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

MONTREAL, May 4, 1881.

STOCKS.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total Transac'n in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Average Price for the Week.	1874 Price for the Week.
Montreal	196	205½	3269	204½	295	187½	187½
Ontario x. d.	191½	200½	1805	199½	200½	184½	184½
Consolidated	102	103	178	102½	80	71	71
People's	92	93	113	92½	94½	68	68
Molson's	110	112	248	111½	112½	186	186
Toronto	150½	152	262	151	155	96	96
Jac. Cartier			5	100			
Merchants	122½	125½	998	124½	125½	181	181
Commerce	144½	147½	2108	147	147½	121	121
Eastern T'ps.				116	94		
Union		93	70	92½			
Hamilton					139½		95
Exchange		138½	37	137	125½		
Mon. Tel.	121½	127½	12305	124	125½	48	48
Dom. Tel.		91	48	92½	64		
Rich. & O. Nav.	63	64½	2015	63½	128	191	191
City Pass.	122½	126	1121	127	139½	121	121
Gas	136	139½	3190	139½	60		
R. C. Ins. Co.				59	122½		
Merchants x. d.	121	122½	583	122½			