

In quoting our contemporary we have taken the liberty of correcting the castings of the 1904 and 1905 figures.

The differences in 1905 from the record of 1904 were as follows:

	Lower. \$	Higher. \$
January	5,592,100	.....
February	64,460,000	.....
March .....	.....	3,539,250
April	11,721,650	.....
May	2,485,150	.....
June .....	.....	1,143,100
July .....	.....	1,250,050
August .....	.....	1,720,400
September	672,400	.....
October	599,200	.....
Net difference	\$85,530,500	7,652,800
Less 1905 than 1904, for 9 months.	.....	\$78,877,700

The heaviest losses during the month were these:

Davenport, Iowa, can factory	\$196,000
Jackson, Miss., hotel	150,000
Rhinelandt, Wis., lumber yard and other	600,000
Eureka, Cal., brewery	150,000
Marquette, Wis., paper mill	150,000
Sunnyside, Utah, coke works	200,000
Angels, Cal., hoisting works & steam mill	150,000

The record of 1905, so far, is not favourable, as there have been 4 months in which there was an excess of losses over 1904 amounting to \$7,652,800, leaving the net reduction up to end of October \$78,877,700 below the 1904 total at same date. If November and December have a fair average fire loss the total for 1905 will be about 174 millions, which would be 18 millions in excess of 1903.

FIRE IN MAJOR MANUFACTURING CO'S PREMISES. MONTREAL.

By the fire which occurred on the 6th inst., in the Major Manufacturing Company's premises, corner of Craig and St. Francois Xavier streets, the following companies are interested:

	On building.
Liverpool & London & Globe	\$10,000
Royal	7,500
Insurance Co. of North America	7,500

Loss about 70 per cent. 25,000

	Stock and Machinery.
Aetna	\$2,500
British America	3,750
Home	3,750
Commercial Union	5,000
Western	3,000
Hartford	2,500
Norwich Union	3,000
Northern	1,500

Loss total. \$25,000

ALLIANCE ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED, OF LONDON, ENG.

It is reported that the Alliance Assurance Company, Limited, of London, Eng., is about to absorb the following four companies: The Westminster Fire Office, County Fire Office, Provident Life Office, and Alliance, Marine and General Assurance Company, Limited. The absorption of the Westminster has already been noted in "The Chronicle."

QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1497.—F. B. A., Compton, Q.—Canadian Pacific Railway stock is speculatively high, but as an investment such as you mention where it can be held indefinitely, we think you would be safe in keeping it. The company has great possibilities and its shareholders should reap substantial benefits within the next five years.

1498.—A. C., Grand'Mere, Q.—(1) Halifax Electric Tramway Company. controls the street railway and all the electric lighting and gas for the City of Halifax. It is moderately capitalized, its earnings are satisfactory and its dividend has just been raised from 5 p.c. to 6 p.c. per annum. At present prices it is a cheap traction stock, but the market for it is narrow. (2) Bell Telephone Company stock is looked upon as a safe investment and it sells in the neighbourhood of 160. The stock pays 8 p.c. per annum in quarterly installments and at 160 returns 5 p.c. on the investment. (3) Lake of the Woods Preferred pays 7 p.c. in quarterly installments and is a cheap industrial investment at its present level. There is \$2,000,000 of common stock behind the preferred, on which 6 p.c. dividends are being paid.

POSTAGE RATE ON INSURANCE POLICIES.

A leading insurance company, having its Head Office in Montreal, recently received the following characteristic letter from one of its agents:

"The writer has had his attention called to the 'postage question upon insurance policies, and he 'notices that to receive from you and deliver to 'the assured (by re-mailing) a policy costs eight 'cents. I interviewed the Post-Office people and 'find the statement is correct. Have the companies 'ever taken this matter up? Why it would seem 'to cost more to deliver from the Head-Office to 'the assured a policy than the cost of the paper 'it is printed upon and the value of the time in 'completing the contract. It seems wrong, and 'more, you can send to Russia or Germany one 'pound weight for eight cents, while the same sent 'to any point in Canada would cost thirty-two cents. 'We are a great people! A great people! Greater 'than has been."

That the anomaly exists as indicated in the above