

The editor enquires sarcastically for information that will lead to the discovery of the South Kootenay Board of Trade, which used to exist in Nelson. An extra enclosed with the broad sheet explains, per telegram from Victoria, that the "assessment bill passed its second reading in the original form last night. . . . The estimates were brought down this morning. South Kootenay gets \$12,000; North Kootenay, \$20,000." Two columns of the report of the Provincial Minister of Mines is given. The output of the seven mining districts is given at \$2,907,221 in value, of which \$2,175,000 is from West Kootenay, and \$273,000 from East Kootenay.

At Trail, the energetic citizens are about to erect a school house, likewise to form a Board of Trade. The calcining furnace of the new smelter blew in on the 12th. A Spokane capitalist is about to erect a four-story hotel block, and the B.C. iron works of Vancouver will put up a branch factory in the town.

From Rossland comes the news that the Lily May mineral location has changed hands. Oregon parties have taken the property for \$40,000, payable in three and six months. There are 150 tons shipping ore, worth about \$100 per ton, on the dump of the Nickel Plate claim. The new compressor plant of the War Eagle Mining Company was started up a few days ago, and is working like a charm. With a capacity equal to 200 horse-power, it will deliver air through 2,800 feet of 8-inch pipe. The Flossie L. claim, west of Red Mountain, has been sold to a Chicago and Spokane syndicate. A meeting was held at Nelson on Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of taking the initial steps toward forming an association of those interested in the mining industry. Mr. H. E. Croasdaile, of the Hall Mines Company, was elected provisional president; John Houston, secretary-treasurer. Messrs. Turner, Kelly and Buchanan were selected as a committee.

#### FIRE MATTERS IN WINNIPEG.

The procuring of additional fire-alarm boxes is proposed by the fire, water and light committee of the Winnipeg council. The chimney inspector of that city has been instructed to inspect all chimneys and have those swept which need it. From the annual report of Chief Rogers we gather that, out of 232 alarms of fire in Winnipeg last year, 69 were for test drills of the brigade, while 18 were false alarms. Of the remaining 145, about a third were for burning chimneys, showing that the chimney inspector's services are needed. Nine fires were caused by children playing with matches; seven by careless smokers; eight by sparks; thirteen by overheated stovepipes; six by explosions of lamps; five by burning rubbish; four by spontaneous combustion; five were incendiary, while a dozen or so were occasioned by various forms of carelessness and by defective heating apparatus. In these figures we find a close correspondence in causes of fires to the proportions so often cited, year after year, in the Fire Tables of the New York *Chronicle*. We append a list of losses, etc., for various years:—

|           | No. of Fires. | Value of buildings and contents. | Loss.     | Insurance. |
|-----------|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| 1890..... | 79            | \$1,052,225                      | \$ 37,209 | \$ 512,384 |
| 1891..... | 73            | 966,410                          | 47,414    | 555,478    |
| 1892..... | 89            | 1,701,025                        | 174,830   | 1,062,550  |
| 1893..... | 109           | 1,767,707                        | 159,921   | 1,119,690  |
| 1894..... | 111           | 1,104,652                        | 187,055   | 741,085    |
| 1895..... | 84            | 1,226,450                        | 102,101   | 670,894    |

The chief of the fire brigade makes some suggestions in his annual report that seem to us of importance to the better protection of Winnipeg from the ravages of fire. He would have a chemical engine and a spare reel placed in Ward 1, urging prairie fires as a menace to that district. Several large fires in 1895 tested the water supply for fire purposes, which was found sufficient, eighteen tanks having been connected direct with the water works mains; he would have twelve other tanks similarly connected and twenty-five hydrants erected, like the new one at the corner of Colony and Broadway. In the North End he would have three approaches made to the river, so that a fire engine can be got to the water's edge. And he indicates other points where hydrants or tanks are badly needed. He further suggests that the Chanteloup fire alarm boxes now in use be replaced by Gamewell boxes; 30 Chanteloup and 13 Gamewell boxes are now in use. As a means of lessening the number of fires he advises that the inspection of buildings for fire purposes be put into the hands of some one other than himself, inasmuch as he has not time to attend to it properly.

#### A CONSIDERABLE COMPANY.

Some time ago there was held at the offices of the company, in Newark, N.J., the annual meeting of the American Tobacco Company, on which occasion were represented 370,000 out of the total 477,000 shares. The statement of the treasurer, George Arents, showed the net earnings of 1895 to have been almost four millions (\$3,971,521). Out of the year's earnings, the company has declared four quarterly dividends of two per cent. each on the preferred stock (of \$11,935,000)

amounting to \$958,440, leaving, it is claimed, \$3,013,081 to be applied to its surplus account, and the payment of dividends on its common stock, which amounts to \$17,900,000. After declaring nine per cent., amounting to \$1,611,000, there is claimed to have been a surplus on December 1st, 1895, of \$8,600,371, a net increase for the year of \$1,402,081.

No smaller a sum than \$1,018,000 was expended in the development of the company's plug tobacco business, this amount being deducted from the year's profits. The present output of plug is reported to be 3,000,000 pounds a month, an increase of 2,000,000 pounds a month in a year. The total assets of this mammoth concern are \$40,782,607; of which about \$37,000,000 consists of real estate, machinery, fixtures, leaf tobacco, manufactured stock, operating supplies, patents, trade marks, etc.

The total liabilities are stated at \$32,182,235, leaving a balance of \$8,600,371. The treasurer further reported that during the year the company purchased the business and assets of a number of tobacco concerns, for which was paid \$1,340,000 in cash, \$273,000 in common scrip and \$182,000 in preferred scrip.

This gigantic combine has invested during the year \$450,000 in foreign securities, making the total holding of such securities \$1,264,655. The American Tobacco Company evidently believe in advertising. Last year the appropriation made by it for that purpose amounted to \$2,000,000. The existence of its various brands depends on publicity, Directors of this company act on the principle that when you have a good thing the public should know it.

There was only one ticket in the field. The new board is as follows:—For three years—Lewis Ginter, James B. Duke, Benjamin N. Duke, William A. Marburg and George Arents. For two years—Geo. W. Watts, Wm. H. Butler and John Pope. For one year—Geo. W. Gail, James G. Butler, John Doerhoffer and Josiah Brown.

#### INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE.

People here and there have become possessed with the idea that child insurance is a sure incentive to child murder. In the United States attempts have been and are still being made to get the State legislatures to forbid it. Opponents of industrial insurance point out that certain children, who have been insured, have died; they cannot trace any foul play, and there is no proof that the poor little things would not have died just the same if they had not been insured. In half a dozen States within the past few years, in Massachusetts only last spring, investigation has been made of the alleged cases of child-murder inspired by an insurance policy, only to prove their absolute falsity. Neither in Europe nor in this country, says the *N.Y. Chronicle*, has investigation shown that child insurance imperils child life, in fact the contrary has been proven, but "fanatic faith" still cherishes the delusion that mothers are unable to resist the temptation to make away with their offspring whenever the latter are insured for a few dollars. One mother froze her child to death—so we are asked to believe—that she might collect \$12.50 insurance money. But for child insurance that mother, of course, would have tenderly cared for her little one, and brought it up in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Pshaw! when fanaticism goes daft nothing is too ridiculous for to swallow. A well-known American judge thus bears testimony to the system since industrial insurance came to his city: "Pauper funerals have ceased, except from our county poorhouse; our dram-shops have become less in number, our young men are buying homes, and our whole city has been benefited. Any and every city should welcome industrial insurance."

#### DRY GOODS PARAGRAPHS.

A departmental store for Fort William is announced as probable Proprietor, John King.

A fire in Dalglish's woolen mills last Friday, in Ottawa, resulted in a loss of about \$10,000.

The Winger Woolen and Felt Company, of Elmira, Ont., are applying for incorporation, with a capital stock of \$25,000, to acquire the business of H. & J. B. Winger & Co., and to make woolen and felt goods, etc.

Pittsfield, Me., as a manufacturing town, possesses one peculiarity at least, that is, there are no French-Canadian families in town, and only one or two Irish. The greater portion of the hands employed in the woolen mills are Scotch.

Eastern States cotton mills that were stopped by the floods of two weeks ago, and have not yet started up, and will not for several weeks, include the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company, Cocheco Manufacturing Company, and Cabot Manufacturing Company.

The whist tournament for commercial travellers which has been carried on at the Scovil House, Waterbury, Vermont, for more than