

altogether, or many of the companies will no longer be seen on this continent.

Amongst the new provisions should be the right of contract untrammelled by restrictions.

The requirement of written applications signed by the assured.

The responsibility of local agents as to over-insurances on buildings, and as to the statements they make concerning the character and circumstances of the applicants.

Governmental investigation into the causes of all fires.

The governmental prosecution of incendiaries:—

The assessment of all claims by competent adjusters.

The report of all individual claims for losses and the payments made thereon.

Very few fires occur from causes which were not easily preventible, a combination of sanitary and police methods would rid the country of the accumulations of rubbish, soot, etc., etc., from which many fires originate, or by which they are made into conflagrations.

At any rate the time is opportune for the putting of the house in order, so that fire insurance may be a legitimate, scientific profession, and investors may be encouraged in the organization of fire insurance companies.

HENRY LYE.

MONTREAL'S EX-MAYOR.

Montreal has been often fortunate in its public servants. Again and again she has been loyally served by men of broad views and public spirit, who gave to the municipality time and effort which might have been spent in dignified leisure or in self-aggrandizement. The example of such men is a civic asset of much worth to the rising generation, while their memory, if they have departed this life, is precious to residents who have survived them. That self-sacrificing effort in the interest of a community receives sometimes recognition in one's life-time is happily shown by a pleasing incident of last week in our chief city.

A number of prominent citizens of Montreal, desiring to show appreciation of the services rendered by Mr. H. Laporte during the nine years he filled the offices of alderman and of mayor, assembled in the council chamber of the Board of Trade and presented that gentleman with a handsome cabinet of silverware. The cabinet is of polished mahogany, and the salver bears an inscription setting forth the occasion of the presentation. The tea service is of elegant design, made in Canada by Henry Birks & Sons. In presenting the gift, the president of the Board of Trade, Mr. F. H. Mathewson, touched upon the need of reform in municipal affairs of the city, by reason of the reckless extravagance, dishonesty and general mismanagement of the city's affairs which prevailed when Mr. Laporte took office as alderman about 1897. With the assistance of some co-workers, that gentleman was able, he said, to effect a great improvement in the city's finances, and added Mr. Mathewson, "You were the means, to a very large extent, of purging the general administration of the city's affairs of many of its most unblushing evils, and it was a fitting reward for your great services in the capacity of alderman that you were elected to the position of chief magistrate of this important city." But for the state of Mr. Laporte's health, he might have held this post for still another term. Mr. W. I. Gear and Mr. George E. Drummond supplemented Mr. Mathewson's address in words expressive of gratitude and admiration.

Mr. Laporte, in returning thanks, remarked that in the testimonial he saw not only a reward for what he had tried to do, but an endorsement of his municipal career. He was

satisfied. The testimonial of which he had been the recipient was a great honor and reward for him. He thought that the support he had received when in municipal life was the greatest reward which could be tendered to a public man.

There were no fewer than 203 subscribers to the testimonial. The committee which had the matter in hand was composed of Messrs. F. H. Mathewson, president of the Board of Trade, chairman; C. H. Catelli, president of La Chambre de Commerce; Hon. R. Dandurand, Ald. Carter, Ald. DeSerres, E. S. Clouston, George E. Drummond and George Hadrill, treasurer.

DEATH OF MR. T. G. BROUGH.

To chronicle the death, suddenly, while yet in middle life, of Mr. Theodore G. Brough, general manager of the Dominion Bank, brings to memory the others, his predecessors in the managerial chair, Mr. Robert Bethune and Mr. Raynauld Gamble, who succumbed after very short periods of illness. Mr. Brough left for England last month to visit his daughters, and a week ago, or more, while in London, suffered a stroke of paralysis, which resulted in his death on Wednesday last. No further particulars than these of his illness and death are obtainable at the moment.

Mr. Brough had served the bank a long time. After some mercantile experience he entered its service as a junior clerk at Uxbridge branch in 1875, and acted in various capacities in other branches for fifteen or twenty years, familiarizing himself with his profession. He was called to Toronto about 1884, and when the Market branch of the bank was opened he was appointed its manager, and built up a most creditable business, which established him in the esteem of head office. In 1892 he was made inspector of the bank, becoming manager of the Toronto branch in 1895. Following the death of Mr. R. D. Gamble, in 1899, he was appointed general manager. In seeking for causes to account for his early and sudden seizure it is recalled that the deceased gentleman had an attack of typhoid fever of exceptional severity about ten years ago, and his friends say he has never been so vigorous since that illness.

STERLING BANK OF CANADA.

The Sterling Bank of Canada opened its doors for business this week. On its board of directors are such well-known Toronto business men as Mr. W. K. George, Mr. John Eaton, Mr. Noel Marshall, while the gentlemen directly concerned in its management have been brought up, we understand, in the service of the older banking institutions. Some desirable accounts have already been placed in the hands of the new institution. A day or two ago we had the pleasure of seeing some of the bills of the Sterling Bank, and, while distinctive, they are very attractive. The fives present on their face an allegorical picture of Commerce on the high seas, while on the back is the Royal Coat of Arms, all done in a pleasing shade of green. The striking feature of the tens is the scrolled roman numeral, representing the denomination of the bill; while on the back is a picture containing Britannia, a man-of-war and a couchant lion. The Sterling opens with a remarkable list of branch offices. Besides the head office in Toronto, there are no less than fourteen in different parts of Ontario. The following is a list, with their respective managers:—Goderich, R. Jeffrey; Varna, Wm. Beatty; Sebringville, E. E. Kastner; Watford, J. B. Wynne; Orangeville, A. L. C. Kirkwood; Cornwall, G. F. Ellis; Tamworth, C. R. Jones; St. Catharines, E. D. Voisard; Uxbridge, C. Urquhart; Parkdale, G. B. Brown; Wellandport, James A. Ross; Cookstown, S. R. Graham; Almonte, Edward R. Crombie; Maple, James Oliver.

A second branch has been opened in Brantford by the Bank of Hamilton. It is in charge of Mr. W. W. McGilivray.

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