

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

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Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

VOL. XXV. No. 36. MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1905

SINGLE COPY, 10c
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00

A Suggestive Suggestion.

The Chief of the Winnipeg fire brigade has submitted a draft of regulations to the fire and light committee, which he suggests for dealing with electric wires in the vicinity of fires, the effect of which, if adopted, would be that the Winnipeg Electrical Company would cut off all currents and send linemen to cut down wires when asked by the chief or assistant chief. When electric wires are found to be, or likely to be, an obstruction to the work of a fire brigade it is certainly desirable for an expert to be on hand with all the assistance needed for cutting wires in case of necessity. Until all electric wires are put under ground in conduits, as must ultimately be done, there should be some such provision as is suggested by Chief Buchanan, of Winnipeg.

Barn Fires.

Barn fires have been unusually numerous of late, the causes of which have been widely discussed. These are divisible into three or four groups. Barn fires are occasionally caused by lightning, some by tramps, others are of incendiary origin, and a few are accidental. Lightning rods are suggested as a safeguard, but, unless these are fixed on scientific methods and are kept in good order they are quite useless and even under the best conditions are not wholly reliable. Against tramps there is only one protection which is their entire extermination as a class. They will sleep in barns, they will smoke therein and at times they will set a barn on fire out of revenge against a farmer who has driven them away. As to other incendiary barn-fires we believe these are very rare. The contents of barns, as a rule, are not over insured, nor is the structure itself. What barns hold is convertible into cash in a few hours, so they need not be burnt to be realized upon, like some classes of store goods. Farmers are a penurious race and of all men they are most unlikely to run any risk of losing money by burning

their property. An accidental fire may be caused by sparks from a threshing machine, or the house, or the farmer's own carelessness in smoking, or in taking a naked light into the barn. So far as the fire companies are concerned their course should be, to give the insured no chance of making money by firing his barn. They should also make it a condition of the policy that no steam threshing machine be operated near enough to be a possible danger.

Colonial Food Exports to Great Britain.

The people of the United Kingdom are dependant upon three leading colonies for an enormous supply of dairy produce as well as other food stuffs. Of butter the imports in the last 10 years were as follows:

Year ended June 30.	Australia. Tons.	Canada. Tons.	New Zealand. Tons.	Total Colonial Tons.
1896.....	8,260	2,100	2,589	12,949
1897.....	9,978	4,557	3,576	18,111
1898.....	7,837	5,962	3,933	17,732
1899.....	9,764	8,151	4,528	22,443
1900.....	17,653	11,932	7,949	37,534
1901.....	15,556	7,532	8,912	32,000
1902.....	7,449	11,491	8,295	27,235
1903.....	1,053	13,238	9,575	23,866
1904.....	19,655	9,879	15,836	45,370
1905.....	23,368	12,847	15,667	51,882

The imports of cheese in the same years were:

Year ended June 30.	Australia. Tons.	Canada. Tons.	New Zealand. Tons.	Total Colonial Tons.
1896.....	81	59,423	2,974	62,478
1897.....	20	63,738	3,270	67,028
1898.....	8	75,214	2,398	77,620
1899.....	..	72,278	1,474	73,752
1900.....	180	70,549	3,973	74,702
1901.....	7	77,267	4,186	81,460
1902.....	..	76,297	2,710	79,007
1903.....	..	87,883	2,617	90,500
1904.....	18	98,306	4,111	102,435
1905.....	..	92,308	4,072	96,380

The imports into United Kingdom of grain and flour from Canada for last year up to 30th June, 1905, amounted to 3,003,000 cwts, valued at \$1,310,-