# Notes and Items.

## AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE WORLD'S GREAT PORTS.—The following statement, issued by the United States Bureau of Statistics, shows the value of the commerce at the great ports of the world. It is made up of the aggregate of imports and exports at the different ports. According to this statement, London and Liverpool rank first, with New York as a fairly close rival. The figures are:

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|---|---|
| London (1903) .. .. .. | $1,304,574,000 |
| Liverpool (1903) .. .. .. | 1,185,514,000 |
| New York (1904) .. .. | 1,106,979,000 |
| Hamburg, Germany .. .. | 981,516 000 |
| Antwerp, Belgium .. .. | 736,114,000 |
| Marseillies, France .. .. | 431,552,000 |
| Calcutta .. .. .. .. | 294,406,000 |
| Bombay .. .. .. .. | 255,272,000 |
| Singapore .. .. .. .. | 213,968,000 |
| Sydney .. .. .. .. | 188,960,000 |
| Shanghai .. .. .. | 188,139,000 |
| Alexandria .. .. .. | 165,147,000 |
| Melbourne .. .. .. | 153,060,000 |
| Montreal .. .. .. .. | 148,400,000 |
| Cape Town .. .. .. | 132,975,000 |

LIGHTNING DISASTERS.—The record of losses of life and wealth by lightning strokes in Ohio during the thunder storms of the last three months is appalling. The good in these ill winds is that they will accellerate the movement of the scientific bodies, who are formulating specifications for a standard lightning rod and prompt property owners to install it.

The reports furnished by two clipping bureaus, which have been laboriously analyzed by this office during 90 days, show 332 serious accidents from lightning.

Nineteen persons were killed and 100 stunned.

Forty-seven houses were struck and of these eight were set on fire.

One hundred and eighty-four barns were struck, and of these 166 were set on fire.

The losses on houses struck is usually small, while the loss on barns is in a majority of instances total.

About one-third of the newspapers of Ohio were clipped, so it is fair to assume that not more than half the lightning strokes attended by damage appear in the above figures. The figure showing deaths is probably correct, for fatal accidents are usually reported by news agencies. Mr. Davis, Fire-Marshall, Ohio.

CHIMNEYS AND LIGHTNING.—It is known that a chimney from which smoke is issuing is more liable to lightning stroke than another object of equal height; that a barn is more liable than a house; that a tree having a porous bark like the oak, which will hold moisture, is in greater danger than a smooth-barked beech; that icehouses are struck much more frequently than storehouses of any other kind, and that ventilating-shaft openings are struck oftener than higher points in the roof.

Now, the chimney carries up watery vapor formed during the process of combustion; hay gives off moisture while curing; rainwater held in a rough-barked tree evaporates; moisture is given off by melting ice; ventilating shafts carry moist air.

Water being an excellent conductor of electricity the ascent of water in vapor above an object weakens the resistance of the air at that point in that it lessens the thickness of the mass of air which electricity must break through, from the watery vapor of the cloud which holds it, to the watery vapor above the earth. This statement being original causes me to be apprehensive about its accuracy.

### PERSONALS.

MR. STEPHEN TOBIN died in this city on 10th inst., after a long illness. He was at one time member of the county and city of Halifax in the House of Commons and Mayor of Halifax. He represented the Queen Insurance Company in the Lower Provinces for many years. More recently he had been a contributor to the press in this city. Having become physically disabled as the result of a slight paralytic stroke, he had been laid aside from active work for a length of time, a fate which he bore with remarkable patience. Mr. Tobin in his prime was a forcible speaker, was very well informed, having read widely, and been a close observer of men and events.

MR. JOHN CASE GRISWOLD was recently appointed secretary of the Texas Fire Prevention Association. He is a grandson of the late Jeremiah Griswold, the well-known author of the "Fire Underwriter's Text Book," "Handbook of Adjustments," "Classification of Fire Hazards," which are recognized authorities. He was for some time editor of this journal. Mr. John C. Griswold's father is general inspector of the Home Insurance Company, who enjoys a high reputation as an insurance engineer. He has our best wishes for a long and distinguished career.

MR. D. MACLENNAN, who has been 14 years with the branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in this city has been appointed manager of the Parry Sound office.

His numerous friends in this city wish him every prosperity in his new sphere.

MR. E. S. LAPUM, ex-Mayor of Napanee, Ont., favoured this office with a call this week. He reports the town and district of Napanee to be flourishing, especially agricultural interests.

MR. JAMES MCGREGOR, manager Commercial Union Insurance Co. has returned from the Coast.

MESSRS. STEWART & MUSSEN. Mr. W. T. Stewart and Mr. H. B. Mussen have formed a partnership in insurance brokerage business. Mr. Mussen has severed his connection with the Canada Atlantic Railway Company. Both being energetic young men, with a favourable record and numerous friends, they have a good prospect of success.

# Correspondence.

**We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents.**

### LONDON LETTER.

FINANCE.

The developments of outside stock and share dealing in this country are becoming really interesting. Slowly and somewhat painfully there are arising out of what might be called the common ruck of "bucket shops" and "cover-matchers" there are arising more reputable firms doing a tremendous business on liberal and novel lines, advertising all over the place, and obviously willing to meet all their liabilities to the extent of their substantial banking accounts.

One of these firms advertises the possession of a "capital" of $1,250,000, while a couple of others are scarcely less well endowed with the wordly values. All alike advertise, circularise, and "wire" regularly, relentlessly and (at times) regardlessly.

Options are their present great sheet-anchor. "Call"