

DRAFTS FOR SOUTH AFRICA.

Imperial Bank of Canada is prepared to issue Letters of Credit negotiable at branches of the Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.

THE WEBSTER HOUSE FIRE LOSS.

The insurance on building was carried by the Royal, \$6,000, and Hartford Fire, \$10,000.

The furniture was insured by Scottish Union for \$3,000.

FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR SEPTEMBER, 1899. (ESTIMATED).

DATE.	LOCATION.	RISK.	GROSS LOSS.	NETT LOSS.
Sept.				
3	Ottawa.....	D'ling & Stable.	\$2,000	\$1,350
4	Amqui.....	Lumber.....	60,000	60,000
4	Niagara Falls...	Electrical Plant.	60,000	35,000
5	Merrickville....	Flour & Shingle		
		Mill.....	5,000	4,250
5	Vaudreuil.....	Dwelling.....	5,000	4,200
7	River a Pierre...	Lumber Mill &		
		Lumber.....	75,000	60,000
8	Coteau Junc....	Railway Cars &		
		Contents.....	20,000	20,000
8	Ottawa.....	Academy & Con-		
		vent.....	50,000	30,000
8	Markham.....	Planing Mill....	2,000	1,000
9	St. Agathe....	Dwellings.....	4,000	900
12	Montreal.....	Stores.....	10,000	9,000
12	Beaumont.....	Match Factory..	15,000	2,500
12	Lucknow.....	Cooper Shop &		
		Dwelling.....	1,000
12	Woodbridge....	Farm Property..	3,000	1,500
12	Montreal.....	Offices.....	500	500
13	Port Arthur....	Dwellings.....	4,000	2,500
14	Pickering.....	Farm Property..	1,500	1,000
15	Mechanicsville..	Dwelling.....	5,000	2,500
17	St. Thomas....	Clothing Factory	9,000	5,000
17	Digby, N.S....	Saw Mill.....	7,000	2,500
17	Toronto.....	Brush & Broom		
		Factory.....	1,000	1,000
18	Quebec.....	Foundry.....	1,000
19	Amherst, N.S....	Electrical Plant.	5,000	5,000
20	Strathroy.....	Stable.....	1,000	600
20	Valleyfield....	Store.....	4,000	3,000
20	Lander's Land-			
	ing, B.C.	Oilery.....	60,000	60,000
22	New Edinburgh.	Lumber Mill....	6,000	6,000
24	Quebec.....	Boot & Shoe		
		Factory.....	2,500	2,000
25	Pictou.....	Dwelling.....	600	500
26	Roseland, B.C..	Stores & D'lings	5,000	2,500
27	Victoria, B.C..	Cannery.....	75,000	60,000
30	North Sydney..	Church.....	15,000	10,000
30	Toronto Island..	Dwellings.....	8,000	2,500
			\$523,100	\$396,800

Add 20 per cent. for unreported losses and losses under \$1,000.....	\$104,620	\$79,360
Totals.....	\$627,730	\$476,160

SUMMARY FOR CORRESPONDING MONTHS OF 1899 COMPARED WITH 1898.

	1899.		1898.	
	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.	Total Loss.	Ins. Loss.
For January..	\$1,221,240	\$ 622,080	\$ 434,280	302,160
" February..	1,120,920	625,560	960,240	531,360
" March....	347,040	222,440	558,000	392,760
" April.....	418,320	356,760	411,960	265,080
" May.....	990,240	578,160	340,440	201,720
" June.....	427,080	287,120	451,480	243,240
" July.....	569,400	304,480	460,920	314,280
" August...	282,840	190,800	578,400	315,960
" September	627,730	476,160	3,377,160	1,254,480
Totals....	\$6,858,810	\$3,523,580	\$7,472,880	\$3,821,040

MR. F. WOLFERSTAN THOMAS.

Although the serious illness of Mr. Wolferstan Thomas, General Manager of Molsons' Bank, is causing much anxiety to his numerous friends, we are able to announce there is some improvement in his condition. THE CHRONICLE joins with a host of Canadians in wishing this worthy banker and excellent citizen of Montreal a speedy return to health and strength.

PERSONAL

Mr. H. Stikeman, General Manager of the Bank of British North America, left Montreal on October 31st for New York, and sailed by the steamer "Teutonic" for Great Britain. He is expected to return to Montreal again in about four weeks.

Mr. Meredith Rountree, who has been connected with The Birkbeck Investment Company since its inception as official Inspector, has resigned that position, and has been appointed Secretary Treasurer of the Montreal-London Gold & Silver Development Co. Mr. Rountree has a host of friends throughout the Dominion who will wish him every success in his new position, and the Montreal London is to be congratulated upon securing his services.

Mr. Frank Paull of London, England, General Manager of the Ocean Accident & Guarantee Company, visited Montreal recently. The Ocean is a most enterprising Company, and recently insured the Canadian Transvaal Contingent to the extent of \$1,000,000. This insurance, it is stated, was arranged by Sir Charles Tupper, and is entirely independent of anything the Government may do.

Mr. Digby Johnson, of Manchester, General Manager of the Lancashire Insurance Company, is at present on this side of the Atlantic, and recently passed through Canada; visiting the cities of Quebec, Montreal and Toronto. While in Toronto, Mr. J. G. Thompson, Canadian Manager of the Company, entertained him at luncheon at the National Club, and invited the Toronto managers of the fire offices and a number of leading citizens to meet him.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents

LONDON LETTER.

19th October, 1899.

FINANCE.

The details of traffic upon railroads are completed for the last quarter, and again we are shown a great increase in expenditure. However, the past quarter exhibits no diminution in the all-round expansion of business with which this year has been marked, and the balances are well over on the right side. The aggregate receipts for the thirty-three leading roads for the quarter amount to \$129,260,000, an increase over the same quarter of last year of \$7,300,000. This is a very large increase, and is discounted in part by the fact that last year the coal-strike was in operation.

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Although the average man is not at all sure that the copper combine is earning for its promoters the easy millions that they thought of getting, some other gentlemen moved by the copper example propose a zinc corner. Continental producers are especially in favor of such a trust, but until the co-operation of the American producers is obtained, it is a case of "Hamlet" with the Prince of Denmark left out.