138-139; Can. General Electric Co., 13 at 135-136; Can. General Electric Co., pref., 10 at 109; Commercial Cable, 374 at 184¾-185¼; Commercial Cable, reg. bonds, $2,500 at 104½-104¾; Commercial Cable, coup. bonds, $25,000 at 104¾; Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Co., 75 at 98-99⅝; Toronto Railway Co., 303 at 105¼-105½; Hamilton Electric Light Co., 5½ at 74-75; London Electric Light Co., 10 at 119; War Eagle Mining Co., 4,300 at 291-293½; Cariboo Mining Co., 17,300 at 123½-118½; National Trust Co., 10 at 126; Canada Landed & National Investment Co., 3 at 90½; Canada Permanent Loan Co., 40 at 108; Dominion Savings & Loan Co., 2 at 75½; Freehold Loan Co., 5 at 90.

THE PERILS OF ELECTRICITY.

The enormous progress now making with the countless applications of electricity to almost all the purposes of ordinary life and convenience, cannot be regarded with entire equanimity from an insurance point of view. Some little time back we had a very alarming series of explosions in the streets of London, as in those, we believe, of other cities, due to the leakage of gas into the vicinity of the electric wires, which, when collected in volume underground, only waited a firing spark to blow up with more or less force. Only the other day an explosion of this kind occurred in Wellington street, Strand, London, and a passerby was much shaken, while several others had narrow escapes from the flying into the air and then falling back again, of the heavy iron lid of the cover to the pavement arrangement for getting at the wires.

On November 2nd, at High Wycombe, in connection with the electric lighting of that town, an extraordinary explosion occurred in the mains. The actual result was in this instance that the glass globes of many of the street lamps, and those in not a few houses, were blown to atoms, and consequent on the fusing of the wires much damage was done, to say nothing of the alarm occasioned. As may be supposed, the different alarms sounded, and the firemen were going in all directions to find what was imagined to be a sudden fire! In one word, the whole electrical installation behaved with a startling amount of caprice, and showed how little reliance can be placed on arrangements which, on a slight occasion—a little extra leakage here or there, or the sudden development of some latent defect in the installation—may, and evidently does, throw everything out of gear. Besides this, there remains the fact that with more power of electricity, such as there must be when the development of new systems has gone on a little further, we may certainly look for much more serious consequences than just the breaking of a number of lamps and the sounding of sundry false fire alarms.

Already there have been many terrible personal fatalities; there was one the other day to a working electrician, who died of contact with a current, and it behooves fire underwriters, as well as accident men, to look well into these things and to take thoroughly into account the fact that as installations multiply all around us, that as street lighting becomes universal, and as the electric light penetrates into all respectable offices and into large shops, and, of course, into all factories, there must necessarily be a vast increase in quite a fresh type of accidents and fatalities, far in excess of anything that has ever been known before the new force was, as is ironically said, harnessed into the service of man.

Few people, comparatively speaking, realize the fact that electricians really know very little about the true nature and properties of electricity, and the difficulty of dealing with this agent, while the work of obtaining even approximate insulation is extraordinarily great. Why, the usual calculation is that fully 35 per cent. of the electricity actually generated is lost, and of course this goes somewhere, and this is the cause of such accidents as have occurred. Electricity in the wrong place is a very serious matter indeed, and as it is being more and more generated all around us, we fear that there will be an ever-increasing crop of grave consequences arising from the extreme difficulty there really is in fully controlling this peculiar agent. By-and-by, possibly, electricians may make some fresh advances and some new discoveries, whereby the perils of electric installations may be minimized; but that has not yet come to pass, and until it does, there can be no doubt that the development of electricity is not at all in harmony with the interests of the public safety.—Insurance Spectator, London.

Commercial.

TORONTO MARKETS.

Toronto, Dec. 1st, 1898.

Dairy Products.—There is little new in the butter market. Both dairy and creamery butter is steady and unchanged, with receipts quite equal to the demand. Exports to British markets have of late been rather restricted. A London mail advice, November 18th, says: "The decreasing supplies of Canadian during November, which we expected may have done something to improve the market for Australian; the decline in Canadian imports, during the last month, is greater than was anticipated, and may be more or less accidental. Still it is sufficient to call for notice. The imports for the last four weeks being 640 tons, 530 tons, 450 tons, and 378 tons respectively, or on the month a decline of just over 40 per cent." Cheese in the local market is in fairly active requests. Supplies of strictly choice eggs are limited, and when available meet with ready demand at high quotations.

Green Fruits.—With the cold weather and approach of the Christmas season, new life has been put into the green fruit trade. Oranges are coming forward more freely. We quote: Jamaica, bbls., $7; Jamaica, boxes, $3.50 to $3.75; Mexican, 126's, 250's, $3.25 to $3.50; Mexican, 150's, 176's, 200's, 216's, $3.50 to $3.75. Stocks of lemons have also improved, dealers quoting: New Messinas, St. Nicholas brand, 300's, 360's, $3.50 to $3.75; new Messinas, Puck brand, 300's, 360's, $3.25 to $3.50; new Messinas, Church brand, 300's, 360's, $3 per box.

Grain.—The cold weather has driven farmers from the fields, and encouraged them to bring forward their supplies of grain. In some districts of Northern Ontario there is good sleighing, and here receipts of grain are liberal; in the West they are only moderate, while East of Toronto there continues to be only small deliveries at the elevators. The demand, local and export, is fairly brisk. Wheat, peas and oats are going forward to the winter Atlantic ports. Wheat prices are 1 to 2c. lower than a week ago. Barley has lost spirit. Oats, peas, rye and corn have advanced 1c. per bushel from quotations a week ago.

Visible supply in the United States and Canada:

	Nov. 26, 1898.	Nov. 27, 1897.
Wheat, bu.	28,369,000	33,656,000
Corn, bu.	22,263,000	42,058,000
Oats, bu.	5,586,000	15,261,000
Rye, bu.	1,139,000	3,603,000
Barley, bu.	3,898,000	5,891,000

Groceries.—A good steady trade is being done by most wholesale grocery houses. Although staple goods are in demand, specialties for Christmas are daily growing in importance. Sugars are firm, but no change has been made in quotations. The tea trade is steady. Foreign advices are not of more than passing interest. The new crop of Formosa oolongs is reported about equal in amount to last year's yield. Late Japan mail advices report a slight reduction in the price of rice. The Singapore Exchange Market Report of October 19th, says: "Coffee—Trifling sales of Palembang and Bali at last rates; supplies small. Nutmegs and mace, steady; fair sales of former and moderate of latter. Black pepper in small supply; only small contracts. White pepper—A moderate business at about last quotation. Rice steady; small imports from Siam and Rangoon. Sago—A fair business in pearl at a slightly higher rate and moderate contracts in flour at last quotation. Tapioca in small supply; moderate sales of pearl; prices slightly higher." Dried fruits are going rapidly into consumption. Canned goods are rather slow, but prices are firm.

Hides and Skins.—The hide market is in a very unsatisfactory condition. For green cow hides, 8½c. per lb. is being paid butchers for No. 1. Toronto inspected, while cured are selling at 9c. per lb. The margin is too small and does not allow profitable trading. We refer to the situation at length elsewhere. Chicago, Nov. 29th.—Only a limited volume of business was transacted in the market for packer hides. Packers continued to show an indifferent spirit about making sales, and held for higher prices. Tanners were buyers at old figures, but declined to trade at an advance. Quoted prices were unchanged. City slaughter, spready, native steers, flat, 60 or over, 11 to 11¼c.; do., butt brands, 60 or over, 9¾ to 10c.; do., side brands, 60 or over, 8¾ to 9c.; do., bull—all weights, 8½ to 8¾c.; do., cow—all weights, 9½ to 9¾c.; country slaughter, steers, 60 or over, 9½ to 10½c.; do., cow, 60 or over, 9¼ to 9½c.; do., bull, 60 or over, 8¼ to 8½c. In the local trade there is little doing in sheepskins, with prices unchanged, at 80c. Tallow is rather scarce, and firm at quotations.

Provisions.—The market has been more active this week. The receipts of dressed hogs have been more liberal, merchants paying $5.30 to $5.40 per cwt. for mixed weights. The deliveries this year are running, as a rule, in about the proper weights, neither too light nor too heavy. There is a good seasonable demand for products.

Wool.—Very dull is the local market, and advices from abroad are not calculated to give much encouragement. The top price on Canadian fleece wool is now 15½c. per lb., with little demand at this figure. The London wool sales opened this week for the last series of the year. The offerings this week are 65,350 bales. On the opening days there was a full attendance. A good selection of merinos show a hardening tendency. The continental and home buyers made good purchases. A large supply of cross-breds of a somewhat poor condition rule weak, and from 5 to 1 per cent. lower.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Montreal, 30th Nov., 1898.

Ashes.—The last London steamer took about 50 barrels of ashes, and the belated Antwerp boat, the "Guildhall," which had to cut her way out of the icy harbor-basin on Monday, being the last ocean steamer to leave Montreal by some days, took 25 barrels, which about clears out all the stock in store. Prices continue high, and as much as $4.70 would be paid for a good lot of No. 1 pots,