

dian of whom his country is justly proud; it is a volume of nearly 1,100 pages, royal octavo. It is "designed for the use of practitioners and students of medicine." The work is dedicated to the memory of Dr. Osler's teachers—to the late Rev. W. A. Johnson, of Weston, Ont.; to the late Dr. James Bovell, of Toronto, and to the late Dr. Robert Palmer Howard, of Montreal. It is published by the Appletons.

We have received a copy of the *Building and Loan News*, "devoted to the interests of building associations and all who desire to own their own houses." It contains an illustrated paper by Erastus Wiman under the title of "Small Homes at Once," which is described, in *fin du siècle* language, as being a new scheme of practical utility, a plan of real novelty and helpful character.

THE MANITOBIAN; a monthly magazine, illustrated. Winnipeg; published by the Manitoban Publishing Co. The April number contains a paper on The Waterways of the North-West, by H. N. Rutan, C.E., and one on The Red River Expedition of 1870, by an officer of the force, continued from the February number.

Mr. John Lovell, the veteran Montreal publisher, notwithstanding losses in previous similar ventures, persists in his laudable desire "to put this magnificent country fully, fairly, and tellingly before our own people, the Mother Country, and the rest of the world," by means of a new *Gazetteer and History of Canada*, in eleven volumes of 8,000 pages royal 8vo., with maps. The patriotic and plucky publisher, now an octogenarian, declares most eloquently that "the feeling that actuated all my efforts [for thirty years] towards publishing Lovell's *Gazetteer and History* still haunts me. This work would save from oblivion noble pioneers who toiled and suffered to secure homes for themselves and those who were to succeed them. *I cannot forego another trial.*" The eleven volumes are to cost \$99, and Mr. Lovell proposes to form a joint stock company, limited, with \$200,000 capital in shares of \$100 each.

The *Gazetteer* of 1881 contained authentic descriptions of nearly 7,000 places in the Dominion, but the increase in settlement is shown by the following table. The first column shows the number of places in each province in 1881; the second in 1891:

|                  | 1881.<br>Places. | 1891.<br>Places. |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Ontario.....     | had 2,864        | it has 3,795     |
| Quebec.....      | " 1,156          | " 1,648          |
| Nova Scotia ..   | " 1,382          | " 1,831          |
| New Brunswick    | " 951            | " 1,351          |
| Manitoba.....    | " 123            | " 455            |
| British Columbia | " 69             | " 193            |
| P. E. Island.... | " 274            | " 421            |
| N.W. Territories | " 80             | " 264            |
|                  | 6,854            | 9,958            |

#### INSURANCE NOTES.

The want of an electric fire alarm system is acknowledged by the president of the St. Thomas Board of Trade to be the one weak spot in the otherwise admirable fire protection of that city.

In quoting our remarks on chemical fire engines in a recent issue, the *Goderich Star* adds: "The addition of one of which would put Goderich in the second highest class." We are told that an effort will be made to purchase one of these engines.

The Guelph City Council has decided that the bell of the First Baptist Church shall be rung in case of fires. There is a peculiar appropriateness in selecting a Baptist bell.

Mr. Jeffers, one of the general managers for Canada of the Germania Life, writes us from London that the appointment of Mr. T. M. Campbell, whom we referred to last week, is that of special agent at Toronto.

The arrangement with respect to the American business of the Caledonian Insurance Company, of Edinburgh, and that of the Niagara Insurance Company, of New York was not, as an item in the *New York Times* quoted by us made it appear, an amalgamation of the two companies. It is simply a matter of putting the United States management of the Caledonian under the same management as that of the Niagara Fire. Mr. Lansing Lewis, the Canadian manager of the Caledonian, and the printed circulars of the Niagara, are our authority for this.

The American Screen Co., of Detroit, on April 19, won a suit against six insurance companies for insurance aggregating \$8,000. The defence was that the fact that the property was on leased ground was not endorsed on the back of the policies, as required by one of the provisions. It was shown that nothing was asked of the insured by the agent concerning the title to the property, and that policies written the previous year by the same agent showed that the ground was leased.

The Superintendent of the Insurance Department has completed his report on the life insurance companies of the State of New York. Concluding a reference to the past and present of the New York Life, the Superintendent says: "Its solvency remains substantial and unimpaired, and its full reserve against all legal liabilities is supplemented by a large and satisfactory surplus. The announcement of these facts, together with the admirable changes in and additions to its official force, has fully restored the company to that public confidence which previous criticism of its management had somewhat affected."

Mr. George B. Edwards has been elected second vice-president of the Germania Fire Insurance Company of New York. He has been in the service of the company for eighteen years.

We observe that preliminary steps have been taken to secure an act incorporating "The Montreal Board of Fire Insurance Brokers," for the purpose of protecting their interest as licensed brokers. Messrs. Edward T. Taylor, Geo. Ross Robertson, Cyrille Laurin, R. A. Campbell, James Bourne, A. N. Fauteux and E. Hurtubise and others, fire insurance brokers, are among the applicants for incorporation.

The question as to carrying some life insurance being settled, as it must be, in the affirmative, in the mind of every right-thinking man who has persons dependent upon him, the next question naturally is as to how much he should carry. While \$5,000 or \$10,000 of insurance appears at first to be considerable, if we think of it, as we should, in reference to what such a sum can earn annually, it dwindles very fast. The ruling rate of interest is low, and \$250 or even \$500 will hardly do for a family that has been in the habit of spending ten times that amount every year. Let the amount of your insurance be such that when you are called away the amount paid out at interest will yield at least a half of your annual expenses now.

The figures shown in another column by the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Company for 1891 give token of very successful underwriting in what has been by no means a good year for fire insurance companies generally.

#### MONTREAL CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings for the week ended Thursday, 5th inst., were \$11,802,930. Balances, \$1,911,242.

#### TORONTO CLEARING-HOUSE.

Clearings and Balances of this clearing-house (of which the Bank of Toronto is not a member) for the week ended May 5th, 1892, are as under:—

|                | Clearings.  | Balances. |
|----------------|-------------|-----------|
| April 29 ..... | \$ 997,729  | \$119,202 |
| " 30 .....     | 847,480     | 62,526    |
| May 2 .....    | 787,778     | 59,042    |
| " 3 .....      | 1,207,533   | 130,616   |
| " 4 .....      | 997,629     | 109,876   |
| " 5 .....      | 1,154,309   | 151,791   |
| Total .....    | \$5,992,458 | \$632,358 |

#### HALIFAX CLEARING-HOUSE.

Bank clearings for week ending April 30th, 1892, were as follows, viz.:

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Monday, April 25 ..... | \$212,469 59   |
| Tuesday, " 26 .....    | 319,549 75     |
| Wednesday, " 27 .....  | 172,506 77     |
| Thursday, " 28 .....   | 237,598 92     |
| Friday, " 29 .....     | 124,515 62     |
| Saturday " 30 .....    | 153,100 68     |
| Total .....            | \$1,209,681 31 |

—Despite the general complaint of scarcity of money throughout the country, there has been a singular absence of failures in the Province of Quebec during the past week; the only two—reported elsewhere in our summary columns—being insignificant affairs, whose total liabilities will not exceed \$5,000. Neither of the cities of Montreal or Quebec have contributed a single assignment, a state of affairs which is without a recent parallel.

—An agency of La Banque du Peuple has been opened on Notre Dame st. west in Montreal, with Mr. H. St. Mars as manager.

—Dividend number 51 of the Union Bank of Canada is announced at the annual rate of 6 per cent.

Notice is given of a half-yearly dividend of 3½ per cent. by the Quebec Bank.

#### Correspondence.

##### THE FIRE AT PARIS AND ITS LESSON.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR,—Recent experience goes to show that a town may have the best of fire appliances and yet property be as much at the mercy of the flames as if the most primitive of methods for extinguishing fires were in vogue. Indeed in the old times the "pail brigade" and the old hand engine were fairly effective, because willing hands were always ready to help a neighbor when trouble in the shape of fire came upon him. But when the steamer came to take its place among our fire appliances, the band of willing helpers who manned the brakes was changed into a band of spectators who looked on and criticized or made sport. Then skill and practical knowledge were required among the officers of a fire brigade, and bravery and coolness among the men. When these are lacking the best system of waterworks in the world becomes a failure.

Circumstances led the writer to take an interest in the destruction by fire of Schofield's knitting factory, located in Paris, on what seems to be the lowest level of that curiously shaped town. According to the statement of parties on the spot, the fire broke out in the