to the foreman, who acts on his own discretion, at the same time telegraphing to the Superintendent for further orders.

Captain Shaw considers that no other system of telegraphing is at all comparable with that of London. In the United States any passer-by may call out a large force of men and engines on a false alarm. In London this was wholly impossible. In New York the per centage of false alarms on the total number of fires had been 57 ; in Montreal, 33 ; in Troy, 52 ; in San Francisco, 37 ; and in St. Louis, 34 per cent.; whilst in London it was only 13 per cent. The economical effect of this was evident by the fact that at the present time the distance travelled by the men and engines, he estimated at 16,000 miles per annum.

In Paris there is no system of telegraphing, which occasions great delay before intelligence of a fire reaches headquarters, although there the expense for men and engines are excessive. The number of men in the Paris brigade is 1572, against our 232, and the annual expenses may be roughly estimated at £100,000. The London fund for the support of the force is £50,000, and is derived from a metropolitan half-penny (cent) rate, producing £30,000 a year, to which is added £10,000 a year by the government and £10,000 a year by the insurance companies.

A fire bell was very well for small unprotected towns, but in any town that has a paid Fire Department, such means of making public an alarm only serves to collect a crowd, which must be dispersed by the police before the firemen could do any good. The fire-bells that have been erected in foreign countries are practically worthless. The calls that reach the stations are examined before they are passed to other stations. "If," said Captain Shaw, "we were to obey every call as it is brought in, we should never be at home at all. People get into a sort of panic, even when there is only a chimney on fire. They come running in, exclaiming that there is a large fire, when there is nothing of the kind." He would recommend small hand pumps to be kept for use in large manufactories, and even in dwelling houses. One is taken with every engine belonging to the London Fire Brigade.—*Post Magazine.*

IMPORTANT INSURANCE CASE.—In the Circuit Court of the United States, yesterday, the case of Samuel H. McCrea, receiver, *vs.* Ætna Insurance Company, and the same, *vs.* American Insurance Company, were argued and submitted to the Judge. The suits were brought to recover on two policies of insurance of $5000 in each company, covering the oil house Nos. 263 and 265 Kinzie street. There had been a litigation concerning the property on the chancery side of the Superior Court; and on the 17th of March, 1866, the plaintiff was appointed receiver. On the 6th of October following, the suit was dismissed ; and on the 9th of February, 1867, plaintiff had the property insured. It was burned shortly after. The companies refused payment on the ground that the property did not belong to the plaintiff ; that when the bill was dismissed, it superseded plaintiff as receiver ; and that the insurance was made in his name personally, instead of in his character of receiver.

RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE BALTIMORE FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The City Council has passed an ordinance providing for the appointment of five citizens of Baltimore, of good character, to serve as Fire Commissioners in the place of those at present constituted as such. When appointed, these Commissioners are to draw for their respective terms of office, two for four years, and three for two years. Every second year thereafter there are to be appointed persons in the place of those whose terms expire. In addition to other duties and powers, the Commissioners are to have authority for themselves, and power to delegate to the Chief Engineer or his assistants the authority to control all persons and property in the vicinity of a fire during the continuance thereof, provided that the exercise of such authority does not conflict with any law of the United States or of the State of Maryland. The ordinance gives authority to the Commissioners to appoint the Chief Engineer (who heretofore has been selected by the City Council), as also his assistants and the officers and men of the various companies, the numerical force of which remains as at present. The salaries per annum are to be as follows, payable monthly : Chief Engineer, $1,500 ; Assistant Engineers and Clerk of the Board, $1,000 each ; foremen, $400 each ; enginemen, $1,000 each ; assistant enginemen, tillermen, and hostlers, each, $700, and firemen, $300 each. The other provisions of the ordinance are similar to those in the various ordinances and supplements thereto at present in force. All others are repealed by this bill, which is to go immediately into effect. —*Baltimore Underwriter.*

THE FIRE MARSHAL BILL.—This important bill has passed through committee at Quebec, with some modifications. The principal amongst them are : First, the Marshal is to be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council and not by the Insurance Companies. Second, if the Marshall should not be able to attend at any fire, he may appoint some competent person to do so. Third, he is to receive but 20 cents for every original supbœna, instead of 50 cents, as originally proposed ; for every copy, 5 cents, instead of 10, and 50 cents for every warrant, instead of one dollar. His highest remuneration ($40) is in case the inquiry should be protracted beyond the seventh day, not the fourth, as in the original draught of the measure ; and lastly, the insurance companies will pay *pro rata* of the costs of any inquiry, according to the proportion their respective policies bear to the total loss by fire.

FIRE RECORD.—LEVIS, Feb.—House of Wm. Downs, and that of G. Michaud; the former was insured for $4000 in the Queen, the latter was uninsured.

Montreal, Feb'y.—Jewelry store of Dorion; insured for $900 in the Lancashire.
in the Lancashire.

Ancaster, Feb'y 27.—St. John's church, with organ and contents; insured in the Canada West Mutual for $2000.

Brantford, March 1.—Muirhead's blacksmith shop ; loss $600. No insurance—cause unknown.

Toronto, Feb. 29.—House of Dr. King; loss $1000—no insurance. Also, house owned by Mr. Ellis, on York Street; insured for $600 in the Western of Canada.

London, March 3rd.—Heathfield & Williams' drug store. Insurance as follows : London Assurance Corporation, $6,000 ; Ætna, of Hartford, $2,000 ; Hartford, of Hartford, $2,000 ; Home, of New Haven, $2,000—total, $12,000, which is ample. Cause unknown.

Railway News.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.—Traffic for the week ending Feb. 14, 1868 :—

Passengers	$18,361 37
Freight and live stock	36,922 62
Mails and sundries	3,838 44
Total	59,122 43
Corresponding week, 1867,	67,043 03
Increase	$7,920 60

NORTHERN RAILWAY.—Traffic receipts for the week ending Feb. 22, 1868 :—

Passengers	$1,928 48
Freight	3,186 40
Mails and sundries	191 34
Total receipts for week	5,928 22
Corresponding week, 1867	7,356 89
Decrease	$1,428 67

EASTERN EXTENSION.—The last Sackville *Borderer* says :—The railroad between the E. & N. A. Railroad and the Nova Scotia boundary line is progressing as rapidly as could be expected taking into account the severity of the weather for some weeks past. Between Dorchester and the first named, near Cook's brook, the road is graded, and for about one half of the distance the rails laid. Of course there is a great deal of ballasting to be done yet but according to present appearances Dorchester will have railroad communication before this year expires and a considerable portion of the line completed to Sackville. The contract for furnishing the logs wanted for the staging of the Railway Viaduct, over the Tantamar river, has been taken by Mr. W. Cole of this place and a considerable number are already procured. Other contractors are also at work, preparing for furnishing materials for other parts of the work,—all which looks like having a railroad.

Mining.

MADOC MINES.—The following extract from a letter written by Dr. T. Sterry Hunt, dated Montreal, Feb. 22, 1868, with reference to the "Empire Mine," will be read with general interest by all concerned in mining operations :

"In accordance with my promise, I have examined the specimens of ore taken by me from your mine in Madoc Village last November The ore consists of a mixture of sulphuret of antimony and copper, with some pyrites and arsenical iron. An assay of a selected specimen from a small vein gave me for the ton of 2,000 lbs.—

Gold, 4⅔ oz.	$96 46
Silver, 57 1-6 oz.	73 74
	$170 20

"By crushing and washing 3½ pounds of an average sample there were obtained 13 per cent. of rich ore, still holding one-fourth its weight of spar, and yielding for 2,000 pounds, as the mean of two assays—

Gold, 9 7-10 oz	$206 50
Silver, 120 7-10 oz.	155 70
	$362 20

"This, it should be understood, refers to the ton of dressed ore ; the wall-rock of dolomite or magnesian limestone gave me only a trace of gold."

Mr. Scott made an assay for silver of ore from the Empire mine, this week, the result being $25 64 to the ton.

GOLD NUGGETS.—We had yesterday the pleasure, through the kindness of Mr. Simard, M.P.P. for Quebec Centre, of examining two large and valuable gold nuggets, taken lately from claims conceded by the DeLery Company in the Chaudiere District. The first was a solid piece of pure metal, weighing two pounds, and was dug out of Kilgore's claim on the Gilbert. The other, which weighed 1 lb. 5 dwts, was taken out of the Nash claim on the same river. There can be no doubt that these pieces were extracted from the localities indicated, as they were found by the owners of the claims while several gentlemen belonging to this city were present on the spot. The nuggets were passed round from hand to hand in the House of Assembly and attracted much attention.—*Quebec Chronicle, Feb.* 14.

THE SILVER QUESTION IN MONTREAL.—Chiefly through the lukewarmness of the business community, the gentlemen appointed by the Board of Trade, of Montreal, to remedy the silver nuisance, have abandoned the enterprise, and it seems likely that, until the government adopts some more stringent measure than the bill of last session, the evils will remain unabated.

—At Mr. W. M. Gray's stock sale in Halifax by J. D. Nash, 10 shares Bank of British North America sold for £64 15s. ; 2 ditto £65 ; 5 Bank of Nova Scotia, £64 17s. 6d. ; 50 Acadia Fire Insurance Company, £5 1s. 3d. ; 4 city debentures ($100 each,) realized $96 each. Other stocks were offered, but no sales were effected.

Financial.

RICHILIEU NAVIGATION COMPANY.—The Montreal *Herald* says :—For the sake of timid people who may be induced to sacrifice property in the Richilieu Company stock by representations which have been made, it may be as well to remind them of the facts which they will find stated in the printed reports now in the hands of each shareholder. The original stock of the Company was only $250,000
It has been increased by 125,000

And is now $375,000
The increase, however, is by no means due to what is called a watering of the stock—that is to say, by a mere nominal addition to the value