

BRIGADE NOTES.

KEMPTVILLE.—A new Silsby Steam Fire Engine arrived lately from Seneca Falls, N.Y., of which an exhibition was given in presence of the assembled citizens. Four branch streams with five hundred feet of hose attached, proved a satisfactory exhibition of the engine's capacity.

LACHUTE is a rising village, possesses very valuable water-powers, and boasts of a new paper mill, substantially built, and well equipped; but in the matter of fire protection, the municipality gives no sign. Past immunity is no ground for argument, and we hope to be able to report a well-devised system of protection before long.

QUEBEC—Owing to the circumstances of the fire at Lebreques & Fortier's tanneries, on April 18, complaints are made of the great danger of keeping tan bark in wooden sheds in proximity to dwellings, and it is considered advisable that insurance companies should only insure it when stored in brick buildings.

BEAUHARNOIS is contemplating the construction of a system of Water works. The present system of carting water round to fires in three large puncheons that are kept on wheels, ready for such occasions, is considered to be slightly behind the demands of the present age, even when assisted by "several good private wells."

TORONTO.—On the night of the 2nd instant, Chief Ardagh of the Toronto Fire Brigade met with a serious accident while driving to a fire; his carriage colliding with the waggon of the Hook and Ladder Company. He was thrown under the horse's feet and received a severe flesh wound on the leg. The carriage was broken and the horse injured.

RICHMOND relies entirely on the kindness of the Grand Trunk Railway, and the energy of its employees, to run out a locomotive to the scene of a fire, and to pump water from the tender by a small hand fire engine belonging to the Company. A village of 1,500 inhabitants should be able to take care of itself by providing apparatus and organizing a fire company.

ST. CUNEGONDE, ST. HENRI and ST. GABRIEL.—The joint Water Works recently constructed in these enterprising western suburbs of Montreal city, are now in working order for purposes of protection against fire, and several satisfactory tests of efficiency have been made. The usual pressure is 50 lbs., which is increased to 75 lbs. for fire purposes in a few minutes after the alarm signals are sounded from any box in the district.

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. I.—The investigation into the cause of the fire in W. E. Smith's boot and shoe shop, only ended in the following opinion:—

"The opinion of the Board of Engineers respecting the fire at Edward W. Smith's shop, which occurred on the 21st April, is that it was set on fire by some person or persons unknown."

If it is possible to push the case further, and make a more thorough investigation, it looks as if it would be worth the trouble. When suspicion points in any one direction, it is the duty of the city to pursue it to the end.

BARRIE.—The verdict returned at the inquest on the fire in the Wright Block is to the effect that the fire was the act of an incendiary; that preparations must have been made for several days previous; that the evidence pointed to Samuel Wright, the owner of the building, as being the author of the fire, and that excessive insurance was most probably the principal incentive in this as in other cases. Mr. Wright was committed to stand his trial, but has been admitted to bail. It is certainly high time for the citizens of Barrie to make some move towards putting a stop to incendiarism which has become alarmingly frequent in that town.

MONTREAL.—The friends of guardian Mann of No. 5 Fire Station have presented him with a magnificent pair of lamps for his hose reel, which will prove a great boon to the men on dark nights.

Mr. Andrew Robertson presented the Fire Department with \$50 as an appreciation of their exertions in suppressing the fire in his stables last month.

What has become of the law about fire escapes, with which hotels, warehouses and other places were to be provided? Do we make laws in Montreal as unalterable as those of the Medes and Persians, publish them loudly and largely, and then quietly sit down and laugh at our wisdom, without seeing that they are carried into effect?

The following estimates of expenditure for the Montreal Fire Brigade for the coming year were adopted at a late meeting of the Fire Committee: Chief, \$1,400; two assistant chiefs, \$1,000 each; twelve guardians, \$600 each; three engineers of steamers, \$600 each; one foreman of Salvage Corps, \$700; one foreman of Skinner Ladder, \$550; one hose-maker, \$600; two men Salvage Corps, \$550 each; forty-four men \$500 each; total expenditure, with salaries, etc., \$151,050. The fire alarm telegraph department as follows: Superintendent, \$1,400; two assistant superintendents, \$1,000 each; one sub-assistant, \$750; repairer, \$500; miscellaneous expenditure, \$1,120; total expenditure, \$6,405. Estimate for building department is as follows: Inspector, \$1,400; clerk, \$400; other expenditure, \$475; total, \$2,275.

COMMUNICATIONS.

All communications to be addressed to the Editor, INSURANCE SOCIETY, and correspondence to bear the name and address of the author, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The publication of a communication does not by any means commit the paper to the sentiments expressed therein; but a fair hearing will be allowed for all sides of any question we may consider of sufficient interest to the Insurance public.

To the Editor of INSURANCE SOCIETY.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry I am not able to pay for any more Insurance papers. I have more now than I can find time to read, as several companies are kind enough to supply me as their agent.

But I am much pleased with your Journal, and for your bold and well-expressed opinions on our arduous and toilsome business.

Your paper is sure to succeed on its own merits, and as the insurance business is becoming so extensive and so closely connected with other important commercial transactions, there is a wide field for the exercise of the spirit and energy by which your Journal is so strongly characterized.

I will try and give you a short letter soon if acceptable.

Yours truly,

NOTE BY ED. INS. SOCIETY.—Our correspondent commends himself by the theoretic encouragement he so liberally bestows on us, and by his evident practical fear of certain pecuniary disaster to himself if he lavishes any more cash on us than his Companies will give him gratis. Send along the "short letter" which we will practically encourage, even though it cost us more than \$1.50 per annum to do so.

A TRAVELLING insurance agent had been explaining to a Western pioneer the advantage of an insurance policy. Pathfinder mused a moment in silence, then said, "See here, mister, I have lived out in this country now for over 25 years, and I have bucked agin most of the games they've started, but darn me ef I want to play at a game where you have to die to beat the bank."