

FIRE INSURANCE PARLIAMENT.

The adjourned annual meeting of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association was held in Montreal, on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of last week. Mr. Kenny, president of the association, expressed himself well pleased with the good attendance at the adjourned meeting, and they would all be pleased to know the outlook was much more encouraging than when they last met, and he felt assured that the association had a long and prosperous career before it. He had no doubt that the wise counsel that has hitherto characterized the proceedings of the association would continue to be a marked feature in its working. All the companies in the association except three were represented, and the utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed throughout. A feature upon which the public is to be congratulated is the steady and rapid progress made in the improvement of fire appliances. Warton, Blyth, and Waubashene, in Ontario, have had their classification raised since the meeting in March, and six other places have their fire appliances about complete for inspection and classification. The judicious discrimination made by the association as to rates according to grade is fully appreciated by the public, who are availing themselves of the provision made for improved fire extinguishing facilities. We believe that this will be the means of greatly diminishing the annual fire waste in those places having adequate fire protection. The system of schedule-rating special hazards is becoming better appreciated the better it becomes known. Every improvement made in a risk ensuring a reduction in the cost of insurance of which the assured is taking the advantage has proved a great success. The system of semi-annual inspection of these risks is also working very satisfactorily. The inspectors point out to the assured what can be done in the way of lessening the fire hazard and lowering the rates of insurance. These suggestions are universally well received, and in a great majority of cases acted upon. Thus greater care on the part of property-owners is engendered. They know that any deviation from the standard will result in an increase of the rates. The companies were represented by the following gentlemen.—Etna F. W. Evans, Montreal; Thos. R. Wood, Toronto; Agricultural, C. R. G. Johnson, Montreal; Atlas, L. H. Boulton, Montreal; British America, Geo. Denon, Toronto; Caledonian, James W. Taylor, Montreal; Citizens, Gerald E. Hart, Montreal; City of London, H. M. Blackburn, Toronto; Commercial Union, W. B. Evans and James McGregor, Montreal; Fire Assurance Association, John Kennedy, Montreal; Glasgow & London, J. T. Vincent and Richard Freygang; Guardian, E. A. Lilly; Hartford, P. C. Royce, Hartford, and F. W. Evans, Montreal; Imperial, E. D. Lacey, Montreal, and Alfred W. Smith, Toronto; Lancashire, S. C. Duncan-Clark, Toronto; Liverpool & London and Globe, G. F. C. Smith, Montreal; London and Lancashire, W. A. Sims, Toronto; London Assurance, C. C. Foster, Montreal; North British and Mercantile,

Thos. Davidson, Montreal Northern, R. W. Tyre, Montreal; Norwich Union, Alex. Dixon, Toronto; National of Ireland, L. H. Boulton, Montreal; Phoenix of Brooklyn, A. C. Sinton, Montreal; Phoenix of London, A. T. Paterson, and R. MacD. Paterson, Montreal; Quebec, J. H. Routh, Montreal; Queen, H. J. Mudge, Montreal; Royal Canadian, George H. McHenry, Montreal; Royal, Wm. Tatley, Montreal Scottish Union and National, W. Kavanagh, Montreal; Western, J. J. Kenny, Toronto. A special feature of the meeting was the presence, for the first time, of Mr. P. C. Royce, secretary of the Hartford Fire Insurance Co., of Hartford, Conn. Mr. Royce, who is a very pleasing speaker, took a lively interest in the proceedings. He congratulated the association on the success of their organization, now entering upon its seventh year. This success he attributed to the fair rates of insurance fixed by them on the various kinds of risks. He was glad to know that in regard to the rating of special hazards they had adopted the system of schedule rating, fair alike to the companies and the assured. Its application required brains on the part of the rater, and he was pleased to find that the result was so satisfactory.

The Montreal branch of the association provided a toothsome menu for their brethren from a distance. The following office-bearers were elected: President, S. C. Duncan Clark, Toronto; vice-presidents, A. T. Paterson, Montreal, Thos. R. Wood, Toronto.

After passing a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Kenny for his very efficient services as president of the association, the meeting adjourned till next October.

—Rapid ocean voyages are very exciting and take immensely. All the efforts of ocean steamship building are directed to lessening the time of the voyage. This is conspicuously the case on the Atlantic, where the competition is most observed, and a slight shortening of the voyage is most appreciated. But if we are to believe President Cheny, of the National Board of Navigation, U. S., this "craze," as he calls it, is not unattended with danger. He supposes that this rivalry will some foggy day produce a collision between two steamers going at the rate of forty miles an hour, and a thousand lives may pay the penalty. The lugubrious prophecy will cause a momentary shudder over the possibility which it indicates, and then, if not otherwise checked, ocean racing will be applauded as before.

—A number of persons in the township of Lowe, near Ottawa, have taken it in their heads not to pay their municipal taxes. This refusal has continued for years, and the crisis is at hand, as the necessary means are about to be taken to enforce payment. The recusants, it appears, are Irishmen, who say that they left the Old Country because they had an unconquerable objection to paying taxes, and that they are not going to begin in the new. This refusal, though entirely unjustifiable, is the natural outcome of the "no rent"

cry which was set up in Ireland. If men may get off without paying rent, or can be made to believe that they can, why not taxes also? This is the logic, but however it may go down in Ireland, it will not work here.

—There is reason to doubt the correctness of the detailed story of the sale to Englishmen, or to anybody else, of the North-West Central Railway. We can fully believe the denial of an indirect sale to the Northern Pacific Railway Company. The truth will probably prove to be that the concern has been put into the hands of two English brokers to see if they can do anything with it. The chances of this road are not what they were since the C. P. R. has appeared on the field with a rival scheme. Can the North-West Central now get the land which at one time it had a right to rely upon? This is doubtful; it is not probable that two rival roads will be subsidized with public lands. At this moment, we suspect, the scheme of the North-West Central is more dead than alive.

—Hamilton is increasing at a fair if not phenomenal ratio. The assessors' census last year made population 44,299, and this year 44,635, increase 336. The city received a slight check from the removal of the Grand Trunk railway shops to Stratford, but it has now reached a figure when a small loss is not much felt. It was the second city in Ontario to establish a free library, being bound to keep pace in intelligence with the best of its competitors. The special feature of the city is its industry, its varied manufactures, in which it far surpasses any other city of its population in the province. Its people are energetic, and having faith in themselves are bound to keep in the van of progress.

—Accounts from the Labrador fishery have become more cheerful of late. During the month of September the weather has been fine and the fishing good. This evening up has abolished the prior deficiency in great part, if not altogether. During the same time, fishing on the great bank has been fairly successful. The season's catch, if not large, has been well secured. On the whole, the Newfoundland fishermen have done fairly well.

—Whether the old Dutch article of faith about herring crossing the Atlantic be true or not, the extraordinary run of herring off the coast of Ireland, where large takes are being made, is phenomenal. Mackerel, trout, brake, and mullet, are, too, all exceptionally plentiful. Mackerel is being shipped from Ireland to the United States, but perhaps not in such quantities as materially to affect the price.

—President Cannon, of the Chase National Bank, had on exhibition last week one of the largest bars of gold ever cast in the United States. It weighed over 500 pounds and is valued at over \$100,000. The bar was cast at Helena, Montana, for the Montana National Bank, and is intended to show what Montana mines can do.

DECISIONS

TATAM V. HAS change Act enacted is deemed to be in an action that the acceptance of the bill, or force of proof is shifted, proves that sub- illegality value the bill." The Bench held that is proved the b to prove both that it has been notice of the fi

An Admiralty regulations for the lights men shall be carried sunrise." By being overtaken her stern to s light or flare Justice Butt regulations for overtaking it permanently f

IN RE LAN point of law nity is dealt with debts as they l of his being own money statute of li reviving the d prove in ban debt up to th been treated subsisting deb should be ul bankruptcy cl part payment by the statut Field and Can the debt had payment as the payment as a fraudulent prevent the p reviving the

IN RE LIC ING ASSOCIATI was decided After the for its shares na H. & Co. by company to 15 per cent. cation mone required to ance of thi further appl were allotted allotment no the shares. wards into entered the contributors after hearing term "under be issued by ment to und as a guaran allotment of should not that such ap