

poses, these are abuses which are no argument against such games as are played to develop physical health, alertness and strength.

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THE REVOLT FIASCO AT PARIS ON MAY-DAY.—As we anticipated May-Day passed off in Paris without anything happening more serious than confusion in the street traffic caused by crowds of such loafers and sensation seekers as always gather in large cities when anything is going on, or looked for that gratifies morbid curiosity. As to any organized revolt looking to a revolution there was no sign. The Royalists and Bonapartists are naturally discontented with the Republic. They have many adherents amongst a certain class who stand sulkily aloof from public life and duty. In rural parts they have sympathisers, but in Paris and other large cities the industrial classes are republican in sentiment, and the traders and business community generally have no desire to have the affairs of the country disturbed and trade paralyzed.

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MONTREAL IS GROWING.—Since 1st January this year permits have been issued for 635 new buildings in this city of an estimated value of \$1,457,711. The high rents obtainable have stimulated house building, especially tenements.

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FIRES IN MONTREAL IN APRIL.—There were 93 fires in this city, in April, against 74 in same month 1905, the worst of which were at a furniture factory and a hay and grain storage warehouse. The alleged causes of these fires are as usual, chimneys 19, electricity 8, gas jets 3, gasoline, lamps, furnaces, each 1, children with matches 3. The great majority might be attributed to carelessness.

PERSONALS.

MR. HAROLD ELVERSTON, proprietor of the "Policy-Holder," Manchester, England, favoured us with a visit this week. Mr. Elverston was visiting Canada for the first time, and while he appeared greatly pleased with places visited, notably, Toronto, Montreal and Quebec. It is rather a matter of regret that his visit was not timed later in the year, when we are sure that his recollections and impressions of Canada would have been still more favourable. The "Policy-Holder" is one of the best authorities on insurance matters, among insurance journals, in England, besides being one of the most respected.

MR. J. C. GRISWOLD, secretary of the Texas Fire Prevention Association, has been appointed special agent in the Southwest for the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company. Mr. Griswold comes of good stock, his father being Mr. F. M. Griswold, the well-known expert of the Home Insurance Company, and his grandfather the late Jeremiah Griswold, the author and insurance writer and statistician who was the original proprietor and editor of "The Chronicle."

MR. J. H. EWART, has been appointed chief agent of the Richmond and Drummond Fire Insurance Company for Ontario. Mr. Ewart is well known, and has a long experience in the Fire Insurance business.

COST OF THE FIRE MARSHAL SERVICE IN OHIO.—The Fire Marshall of the State of Ohio is issuing a report which shows that he spent \$62,040 last year, and that this money is furnished by the Insurance Companies. If, as Mr. Hy. D. Davis, the Fire Marshall, reports, the fire loss has been materially decreased owing to the service of his department, the sum spent thereon was well spent. The advance Report reads:

The item of postage, which was \$1,405, gives an idea of

the amount of work done by the department. From the Columbus office, nearly every week, 900 bulletins were mailed, half of them to publications within the state; the remainder to persons who had asked for them. Three thousand annual reports were sent out and blanks were sent and much correspondence had with 2,099 officials who under law, report fires. Sixteen hundred letters were written to town officials in regard to the passing of ordinances against fire dangers. The livery bill was \$641. Rent for eleven offices \$1,378. Stenographers' fees in gathering testimony \$1,012. Witness fees \$294. Attorneys' fees \$324 and extradition of prisoners \$276. These amounts were spent principally in the case of George Letcher, who resisted extradition from California. Fees of Township Clerks for reporting fires \$617. Obtaining evidence \$375. Maintenance of witnesses \$545, most of which was spent for support of Jack Page, who, within three years has been an important witness before 40 grand juries and juries, and, being 86 years old, cannot support himself while at the command of the department. He has been an important factor in the prosecution of the firebug gang in Williams and Fulton Counties.

No money was spent in compromising or paying damages for false arrest.

The fire marshal law of Ohio provides that fire insurance stock companies shall pay to support the fire marshal's department one-half of one per cent. of their gross premiums. The amount produced by this law, owing to the rapid increase in insurable buildings, is growing at the rate of \$10,000 a year, and for 1906 will be about \$70,000.

Although the fire marshal during last year undertook the added work of inspecting buildings and of educating the people as to fire dangers through the newspapers, he had at the end of the fiscal year \$10,671 unexpended. This money could have been well spent in salaries for additional inspectors.

Through the activities of the fire marshal's department 46 persons were convicted of arson; the number of incendiary fires was but 97 and the loss entailed by them but \$93,359. Every suspicious fire was investigated and the number of fires classed as unknown was reduced to 6.9 per cent. This is a smaller proportion of "unknowns" than is found in the statistics of insurance companies, in which occur only selected risks, and in which all fires are investigated by adjusters. The fire loss in 1905 was one and one-third million dollars less than the average.

In 1905 the fire insurance companies had to pay back in losses 34 cents out of each dollar of premiums collected. This leaves a nice margin of profit to protect against a conflagration loss that will come bye and bye.

In years before the fire marshal's department was established, the loss was as high as 60 cents. In 1903 it was 54 cents and in 1904 52 cents for each dollar paid.

This great reduction in fire loss benefits the whole people. Many buildings are not insured at all, and, as insurance companies carry but two thirds the value of building and contents, if the loss is total the owner loses the remainder. In 1905 the cost of fires in which the loss was total was \$2,109,173, or a little more than a third of the total loss which was \$6,112,707. The people pay the whole loss ultimately, for the insurance companies only assess the danger and distribute the loss.

STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES.

Wednesday, p.m., May 2, 1906.

The demoralization of the New York stock market has been reflected here. The local market showed a tendency to weakness on Friday, and on Saturday this developed into a slump, in which values were rapidly marked down under liquidation. The low prices of Saturday brought good buying into the market, and on Monday a recovery set in, which was well maintained during the greater part of Tuesday. As soon as the buying demand was satisfied, however, prices sagged off again. Last night's closing was heavy, and further selling this morning again depressed prices. An improvement in the situation was seen as the day progressed, prices recovered, and the closing was firm at about the highest of the day. The limited money market accentuates the weakness brought about