

**RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.**

Mr. F. H. Russell, manager for Canada of the above company, passed through Montreal recently from the maritime Provinces, where he spent some time in the interests of his company. Mr. Alfred Shortt, of Halifax, has been appointed general agent for that city, and Messrs. Tilley & Fairweather will represent the Company in St. John, N.B. Both appointments should prove very fruitful for the company, as Mr. Shortt is very popular in Halifax, and prominent in the insurance business, and the same can be said of Messrs. Tilley & Fairweather in St. John, N.B. The Railway Passengers was organized in 1849, and is the oldest Accident Company in the world. Its policies are very liberal in construction.

**ROYAL EXCHANGE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

With reference to a rumour in circulation some time ago, that the above company were making arrangements to do business in Canada, we are informed that they have no present intention of doing so.

**NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.**

Mr. L. Coldman, managing director of above company, has issued a circular to the agents, notifying them of the appointment of Mr. T. G. McConkey to the position of superintendent of agencies for the Dominion. Mr. McConkey is well known in this Province in the insurance business, where he was superintendent of agents for some time, and latterly joint manager with Dr. C. Ault for the Province. He has been very popular and successful with the agents of the company, and his promotion to a wider field is well merited, and will give him greater scope for his abilities.

**NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

The North-British and Mercantile Insurance Company moved into their own building on St. Francois Xavier St., in this city, on the 1st instant. The building has recently been remodelled and enlarged and now ranks among the finest up to date office buildings in Montreal. The Company occupy the ground floor, which is a very commodious office, with ample space to accommodate a large staff. A number of the offices in the building are already tenanted.

**BUSH AND OTHER FIRES.**

At time of writing we have telegrams before us stating that bush fires are raging within certain distances of the following places: St. Jerome, P.Q.; St. Adele, St. Agathe, St. Faustin, Hull, Three Rivers, Kemptville, Joliette, St. Janvier, Sherbrooke, St. John, N.B.; Winchester, St. Polycarpe.

The fire at Hull has been suppressed, damage much exaggerated. The fire at Ottawa, yesterday which destroyed a planing mill, sash and door factory, paint works, and printing establishment involved an insurance loss of about \$150,000.

**PROMINENT TOPICS.**

Circulars are being sent out from a firm in this city writing subscriptions to the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of America. The circular affirms that

"The establishment of the Marconi system upon a commercial basis will mark an epoch in the World's history, and will result in revolutionizing modern methods of electrical communication."

Of this there can be no doubt if the words, "commercial basis" are amended to read, "permanent commercial basis." The shares are offered in blocks of 20 or multiples thereof at \$4 for each \$5, which means a discount of 20 per cent. Without expressing any judgment as to the ultimate achievement of wireless telegraphy as an established commercial enterprise, present conditions do not give positive assurance that such success is in sight. As a magnificent scientific wonder the Marconi system stands foremost and when it is so developed as to accomplish what its inventor aims at the enterprise will afford a wide field for the investment of capital.

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The failure of the Ames firm raises a most important question relative to private bankers, for the firm invited deposits by giving higher interest than the chartered banks. Of these funds they are reported to hold from \$250,000 to \$300,000. The subject will be discussed in our next issue.

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The London Assurance Corporation is reported to be about to reinsure and take over all the existing risks of the Imperial Insurance Company in the United States, except those of the Boston office.

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The suggestion offered a few months ago by this journal that the bank clerks in Toronto, organize a Club seems to have been seed thrown in good ground. Arrangements are reported to be in progress for establishing such an institution, to be run on a strictly temperance basis. The large number of young men and some youths employed in the city banks, who are living in boarding houses, entirely separate from their family circle, renders it most desirable for some provision to be made for their enjoying such recreations, social pleasures and conveniences as can only be secured at a Club or Institute.

It is dreary experience for a young man to have no pleasant resort in which to pass the hours between dinner and bed-time. However agreeable may be his room and companions in the lodgings, their charms are not a perpetual delight, or even endurable at times. Hence the habit is acquired of