

It may be said, these are merely the opinions of an Agent of the Insurance Offices, and that his views are extreme ; yet it should be remembered that Mr. Stone has had very large and long experience in such matters, which ought, in justice, to give his opinions great weight. St. John, New Brunswick, is supplied by a 12-inch and a 24-inch main ; the 24 inch main being, of itself, equal to five 12-inch mains. These two main pipes empty into a tank, which again supplies 6 mains of 12 inches each, which, with other main pipes, chiefly 10-inch—and none less than 4-inch—are distributed over the city.—There are 93 fire plugs in St. John, exclusive of 18 in Portland,—while we have but 43.

But even supposing the proposed additions of the Water Company to be sufficient for the central part of the city,—it is evident, that after the additional pipes are laid, the north and south districts of the city will be quite as badly provided as before. The offer of the Water Company, in fact, proposes to protect a part of the city, in consideration of a certain sum, which must, of course, be derived from assessment levied upon the whole ; with this additional disadvantage, that were a Fire to break out in the part unprotected,—which is chiefly of wood,—it might gain such headway, as to endanger every part alike. It does not affect the argument, that the new pipes are to be laid down in the most valuable business portions of the city ; inasmuch, as the north and south districts include vast numbers of houses, both of rich and poor ; and surely, it must be admitted, that the lives and dwellings of, at least, one half of the population, most of whom would pay their proportion of the fire tax, are as much entitled to protection, as the warehouses and merchandize of the other half.

The Committee are of opinion that £350 in addition to the £650 already paid, is too large a sum to pay yearly, for a protection, limited in extent, and of somewhat doubtful efficiency. They recommend, therefore, that the offer of the Water Company be not accepted.