

PERSONALS.

Mr. E. K. Spinney, representing the Union, Imperial Fire, and one or two companies at Yarmouth, N.S., was in Montreal this week.

Mr. Woodland, who looks after the interests of the Employers' Liability, in the West, was in Montreal this week consulting with his colleague, Mr. Griffin.

Mr. A. McDougald, manager of the British Empire Mutual Life, who has been confined to bed some weeks with a broken ankle, caused by falling on a slippery sidewalk, is, we are informed, progressing favourably.

Mr. W. S. Hodgins, on the 1st instant, was appointed manager of the Provident Savings Life for Ontario.

Mr. E. S. Clouston, general manager Bank of Montreal, after an absence of about two months in Europe, arrived home a few days ago.

Mr. George Simpson, manager of the Royal and Queen Insurance Companies, has returned from Bermuda, looking hale and hearty, after a brief sojourn there.

F. Sanderson, M.A., actuary of the Canada Life Assurance Company, was last week elected to the Senate of McMaster University. Mr. Sanderson is a graduate of the University of Toronto.

Notes and Items.**At Home and Abroad.****MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.**

	Clearings. \$	Balances. \$
Total for week ending		
April 18.....1901,	18,173,376	2,572,097
Corresponding week ..1900,	12,343,246	1,530,699
" " 1899,	14,119,619	2,046,303
" " 1898,	12,263,517	1,866,658

A MANUSCRIPT VOLUME has been recently sold in England for \$50,000 by the Earl of Ashburnham. It is an illuminated copy of the four Gospels.

MR. WILLIAM LEWIS is referred to by "The Index" as having retired from the general managership of the Manchester Fire Assurance Co., owing to ill-health. He is succeeded by Mr. H. S. Mallett, formerly with the London & Lancashire Fire.

THE LOSSES BY THE JEFFERSON HOTEL fire, Richmond, Va., were shared to a large extent by British fire companies. The Royal had a risk on the property of \$50,000, the Commercial Union, \$17,500, North British and Mercantile, \$15,000, Lancashire, \$10,000, Atlas, \$5,000, Manchester, \$5,000. The total insurance was \$565,000.

OTTAWA HAD A NARROW ESCAPE of losing its principal hotel, the Russell House, by the fire which destroyed the theatre. The guests all packed up and moved into the streets, the house was in total darkness for some time but happily, the fire was confined to the theatre. It is open to question whether a theatre should be allowed to be built close to a hotel as, in case of fire, the danger to a large number of inmates is very serious.

THE SENATE OF MINNESOTA has passed a bill by which no marriage license can be granted in that State until the applicant has secured a medical certificate that he has a sound physical constitution. Nothing is said about the other party involved. In "More's Utopia" this scheme is described as in force in that model country. Here it only excites ridicule.

IN THE ENGLISH COURT OF CHANCERY there is \$350,000,000 lying idle, being unclaimed. In the "London Times" the suggestion is made that this fund be used to relieve taxation, as the great bulk of it will never be claimed. Great Britain would have to be in financial straits indeed were this to be acted upon, of which there is not the slightest probability.

THE DELEGATES IN ATTENDANCE at a conference of English Friendly Societies, held at Birmingham on 14th March, declined to discuss a resolution in favour of the State granting old age pensions applicable to old members of registered friendly societies on reaching the age of sixty-five. The British spirit of personal independence revolts at the idea of being a State supported pauper.

A GRAVEYARD INSURANCE CONSPIRACY has been exposed in New Jersey, in which a physician, a newspaper editor and a prize fighter are implicated. The physician found the dead bodies palmed off as those of persons insured, who were still alive, the prize fighter provided the physical protection he needed at times, and the editor, we presume, gave an air of respectability to the conspirators.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS have gone into the Committee stage at Ottawa:—An act respecting the Dawson City Electric Company. An act to incorporate the Century Life Insurance Company. An act to incorporate the United Empire Life Insurance Company. An act respecting the British Columbia Southern Railway Company. An act to incorporate the Canadian Patriotic Fund Association. An act respecting the British Yukon Railway Company.

ELEVATOR FIRE LOSSES are given in the New York "Commercial Bulletin" for 1898 as \$4,520,500; 1899, \$1,799,000; 1900, \$2,054,000; 1901, \$917,000, up to 7th inst., making a total for 3 years and one quarter of \$9,290,500. The number of elevators fires comprised in the above total was 62. The last fire on the list is that at the elevator at St. Louis, which was set afire by sparks from a railway engine, by which the structure was demolished, the loss being \$650,000,000. The insurance loss will probably be about one-half that sum.

THE BANK OF COMMERCE, TORONTO, and Imperial Bank have been swindled by a rogue who opened an account with each bank. He got a cheque on the former for \$20 marked good, and one in the latter for \$10. He raised these severally to \$2,900 and \$2,455, drew the money and disappeared. It has been suggested that when a cheque is marked good the amount of it should be added by the ledger keeper, as it would almost be impossible to "raise" his memorandum. It would be a check also on "raising" were the space after the amount of a cheque scored through so as to leave no room for adding anything to the amount.