

MR. E. ROGER OWEN, general manager of the Commercial Union, is on a visit to this continent.

MR. JOSEPH WALSH, who has been for some time connected with the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, as inspector for the Province of Quebec, has been appointed to a similar position with the North British and Mercantile for Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. Mr. Walsh will make Winnipeg his headquarters.

Notes and Items.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending June 2nd, 1904—Clearings, \$18,443,213; corresponding week 1903, \$27,231,250; corresponding week 1902, \$22,677,224.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 26th May, 1904—Clearings, \$1,631,725; corresponding week last year, \$1,567,375.

FLORIDA had a good year in 1903, so far as fire business went. The loss ratio being under 50 per cent.

THE NATIONAL DEBT OF Great Britain, on 31st March last, was \$3,951,171,200, a reduction since March, 1903, of \$7,389,000.

ALABAMA LIFE ASSURANCE, in 1903, showed premiums received \$3,351,577 and leases incurred \$1,072,246; total in force, \$97,416,505.

EARNINGS OF THE LONDON STREET RAILWAY Co.—Week ending May 28, 1904, \$4,368.44; corresponding week 1903, \$3,702.97. Increase, \$665.47 or 17.9 per cent.

WAITERS, BEWARE.—A guest at a New York restaurant has recovered from the proprietor the value of a dress spoiled by the waiter spilling soup upon it.

THE TOTAL OFFERED FOR SUBSCRIPTION in England this year, to 7th May, was \$179,362,000, against \$321,666,000 in same period 1903, \$457,345,000 1902, and \$516,230 1901.

THERE WAS NO INSURANCE on the property of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railway Co., which was burnt at Hoboken on the 29th ult. There was some insurance on the goods waiting to be removed from the piers.

A COSTLY DISEASE is typhoid fever, which the Dean of the Michigan University calculates inflicts a loss of \$90,000,000 a year on the people of United States. The lamentable fact is that typhoid is one of the easily preventible diseases.

THE FLOOR AREA of first class buildings in Boston is restricted to 20,000 square feet, without division walls, by the Bill which became law on 23rd ult.

SPECIAL CONFLAGRATION FUNDS are being advocated, to be laid aside out of every premium.

NOT LIABLE FOR EXPLOSIONS.—The Hartford Insurance Company secured a favourable verdict in the case arising out of the famous Tarrant explosion of October 29, 1900, and brought against the company by Emmens, Smith & Weidmann for loss on machinery in one of the buildings demolished on that occasion. The evidence went to show that the injury to the Fahys building, in which the said machinery was placed, was directly the result of the explosion, and the insurance company, according to a former judicial opinion, was exempted from liability on that account.

BANK NOTE PROFITS.—Our valued contemporary, "The Commercial," Winnipeg, quotes what THE CHRONICLE said *in re* the profit on note issues, as "a good explanation," but inadvertently omits to say where the explanation first appeared.

ARKANSAS FIRE LOSS, in 23 years, was \$10,070,838, and premiums \$16,759,378; the loss ratio being 60.09 per cent. Last year it was 39.57 per cent. Twenty-three years with an average loss ratio of 60.09, and expense ratio of 37 per cent. is a very unprofitable record for the fire companies.

THE ACTUARIAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, at its recent meeting, elected the following officers. President, Mr. Israel C. Pearson; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. Rufus W. Weeks and Daniel H. Wells; Secretary, Mr. John Patlock; Treasurer, Mr. Archibald A. Welch, Executive Council, Messrs. J. K. Gore and J. M. Craig.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

TORONTO LETTER.

Aftermath of the Conflagration.—Quicker Rating Service Wanted.—The Second Meeting of the Non-Tariff League.—Reflections thereon.

DEAR EDITOR.—It is stated that the extent of the street frontage burned over by the recent conflagration in Toronto was 3,674 feet. When one is reminded that all this ground was occupied by costly warehouses and like structures, a good idea is presented of the loss to the city for some time to come, of a large block of taxes. So far, arrangements for rebuilding have not been made for more than one-third of the area. Trouble over ground leases, the high prices of labour and materials topped off with high rates of insurance are tending to delay the rebuilding. Meanwhile, the pessimists tell us, Toronto will lose a large part of her wholesale trade. I do not think this will result to the extent reported. A few may leave us, but I look forward to see nearly all the old firms of importance re-established.

The rating officers of the Toronto Board are all as busy as bees fixing new tariffs, and making the necessary changes incident to the increased scale of rates. Offices, agents and brokers are grumbling at the difficulty they meet with in getting rates named for their clients. The service is only competent to hand out a certain number of rates per diem, because it requires skilled and experienced men to secure the data necessary for formulating a rate, and the supply of such adepts is limited. Patience is in order; a difficult virtue to develop, perhaps under existing circumstances, because each agent or broker wants to close his deal up quickly lest his often dissatisfied customer be lost to him. After all, it is a sort of harvest time for the aforecald gentry. Insurance must be bought in so many cases, let the price be ever so high, that agents are finding their renewal premiums increased anywhere from one half to double, without much extra exertion on their part, except the dealing out, it may be, to their clients, kind words and sympathies for having to assess them so heavily.

Last Friday the Non-tariff Offices reassembled to hear the report of their committee recently appointed and charged with the duty of preparing some rules and regulations and suggestions for the frame work at least of a