The Commercial Alliance Life Co., of New York, is reported by the receiver to have not enough assets to pay costs of winding up, so he has retired.

The Lancashire Insurance Co. has declared an interim dividend for half year ending 30th June last, "at rate of £5 per cent. per annum," free of income tax.

The New York Park Fire insurance company has been dissolved, the stock-holders getting \$174,000 back for their \$200,000 subscribed capital. The Park had been in existence 38 years.

Our Manchester contemporary, The Policy holder, speaks of Mr. Ryan's "tour in Canada and British Columbia." We beg to remark that British Columbia is just as much a part of Canada as Lancashire is of England.

The Colonial Mutual Life Association is reported in the *Official Gazette* to have received a certificate of registration to do business on the assessment plan, I. F. Mathieson being chief agent, and head office in Montreal.

The Philadelphia Fire Lloyds is re-organizing an incorporated company. The Assurance Lloyds of New York is considering this change, and we hear of others who will probably retire, or throw in their interests with one of the joint stock insurance companies.

A Cape Town paper points out that South Africa contributed its full share of losses last year, and yet "foreign" companies doing business there are taxed by my of gentle inducement to the colonists to protect colonial industry by paying for their fire losses themselves.

New York brewers are kicking against insurance rates, as they seem to have had a run of good luck for several years, and conclude therefore that they had nothing for their premiums! American Exchange and Review recommends them to "organize an exclusively brewers' fire risk Lloyds—they will find out all about."

The Commercial Trust Company of Philadelphia is about opening up in that city to insure owners of real estate, mortgagees, and others from loss by reason of defective titles, liens or encumbrances. The company is reported to have substantial support; we doubt whether there is sufficient business of this class to need an organization devoted to it.

The Appellate Count of Indiana has just decided that the provision of a fire insurance policy, that the company shall not be liable for any loss occurring while any part of the premium is overdue and unpaid, is valid; but if the company having knowledge of a loss accepts an overdue premium, its liability is established from the date such premium was due.

The United Workmen Order is having unfavorable experience in California. Since 1890 its membership has been decreasing steadily, from 18,769 in that year, it has fallen to 17,316, the present number. The mortality per thousand in 1890 was 10.73, this year it is 16.02, with consequent increase of assessments, which accounts for the decline in membership. Ten other States report the same experience.

Two underwriters, one an American and the other an English manager, were discussing the New England term policy plan of two annual premiums for three years and three for five years' term, when one of them, the American, remarked: "Our business has been run too long on the apple-stand plan of two for three and three for five." "Yes," remarked the English manager, 'more on the apple-stand than on the understand!"

A remarkable case of the absolute disappearance of all trace of a man's remains, who was killed by an explosion, has occurred in Germany. The accident occurred in a chemical works, and chemical analysis has failed to discover any traces of the deceased's body. The man was insured, but the company declines to pay the claim, as no proof of death is forthcoming. A very hard case, and not creditable to the company.

The New York Life in a recent month paid 150 death claims amounting to \$622,333, for which premiums had been paid amounting to \$222,104. Amongst the policies paid were the following:—

\$5,173 in	which	the premiums p	aid amounted	to \$	1S0
10,000	41	. "	"		3,180
70,000	16	44	"		26,342
20,362	46	(1	46		
50,000	44	ţ¢	• 6	•••••	

William J. Pierce, a clerk for the Travelers' Insurance Company, has been charged with violating the lottery laws by managing a sale of gold watches on the weekly club system. Pierce is agent of the Standard Jewelry Co. of Meriden. The prosecution was instigated by the Connecticut Jewelers' Association Judge Barbour reserved his decision. Much interest is attached to the case as it is regarded by jewelers as a test case.

The Equitable has published a statement showing what length of time elapsed between receipt of proofs of death and settlement of policy claims. The schedule shows that 71.78 per cent. were settled on same day, 15.50 per cent. within 10 days after, 8.51 per cent. within 60 days, and the balance 2.21 per cent. took longer than two months to settle. It may be said of all the leading life assurance companies, that they settle claims very promptly on receipt of reliable proof of death.

The Watkins System of Automatic Fire Alarm has done good service recently in this city. The manager of the Dominion Roller Plate Company has written to Mr. Grose, the general manager, saying: "A fire occurred on the 10th inst., in the building in which our factory is situated, and we have no hesitation in saying that a disastrous conflagration was prevented by the promptness with which your system gave the alarm. In any city possessing an efficient Fire Brigade, we are confident that the Watkins System furnishes an invaluable protection against losses by fire." The manager of the Montreal Silk Mills Co. has written Mr. Grose to the same effect as above.

An exactly parallel case has occurred in the States to one which caused considerable comment in this city, and litigation several years ago. The agent of two companies was instructed to cancel a policy; he did so, and at once re-wrote the risk in his other company. On the day this was done, the insured property was burnt. Naturally enough, the company which had just got the risk suspected that they had been let in for the loss in an improper manner, that indeed agent had known of the fire before suddenly transferring the policy, choosing to sacrifice one company in order to keep himself solid with the other one. In the Montreal case this was proven to be wholly unfounded, and in this new case the agent will clear himself. That a property should be burnt on the very day the policy on it was being transferred is a very singular coincidence, and suggests that agents who are liable to be caught in this way should make a memorandum of the time they receive instructions to cancel and the time they make the transfer, and both points ought to be provable by a witness.