

The outcome of a careful survey of the situation by the fire underwriters is the advance of rates to a considerable extent in the Maritime Provinces.

The death of Mr. Goodnow, president of the Aetna Fire of Hartford, leaves Mr. D. A. Heald, the president of the Home of New York, as the oldest fire underwriter in the United States still in an active official position. He wrote his first policy for the Vermont Mutual Fire fifty-one years ago on a house now standing. He has been with the Home since 1856.

The action of the British offices with regard to fire insurance rates in Nova Scotia is scarcely in keeping with the underwriting ability and tact usually displayed by them, and is severely criticized on all hands. The Province has had a good record, and while no doubt the equipment of the various towns, including the city of Halifax, with better fire extinguishing appliances should be insisted upon, yet any hasty action is undesirable.

The Iowa Supreme Court has decided that the clause in a lease by a railroad (the Illinois Central), granting the use of ground for an elevator (to one Griswold), on condition that the company shall be exempt from claims for damage by fire caused by its own negligence, is inoperative and void. Griswold had a loss from the sparks of a passing locomotive, which the insurance company paid, and then sued the railroad company under subrogation, with the above result.

In order to comply with the requirements of the fire underwriters for a better water supply as a condition of raising the classification of St. Johns, Que., that town some time since made an arrangement with one Molleuer, the owner of the water works, for a certain annual payment, remission of taxes due, and of future taxes for an increase of the supply. Certain citizens petitioned to the court to have this contract set aside as illegal, and Judge Charland decided adversely to the petitioners. An appeal was taken, and the higher court has confirmed Judge Charland's decision.

Our readers will remember that some months ago we referred to the anomaly presented by the Lancashire in having a good actual surplus in the United States, and yet technically in a bad way there by reason of a deposit of more than \$900,000 with the State authorities in New York made some years ago, though the law requires only \$200,000. As the bookkeeping of the insurance department of the State treats all such deposits as capital, and hence as a liability, the more money a company had thus deposited the poorer it was—on paper. Under a special act of the legislature the insurance department was authorized to release the above funds, in excess of the required \$200,000. This has been done, and now this \$700,000 or so will properly figure on right side of the ledger in the next annual report.

PERSONAL MENTION.

MR. WILLIAM T. KAUFMAN, assistant United States manager of the Commercial Union, has resigned, and on January 1st goes into the banking business.

MESSRS. DASTONUS & LEGER, for some time past general agents in this city of the New York Life, have transferred their allegiance to the Sun Life as general city agents of its French department. The Sun is to be congratulated on securing the services of these enterprising gentlemen.

HON. J. F. C. TALBOT, the efficient and popular insurance commissioner of Maryland, has been elected to the Lower House of Congress from Baltimore.

MR. JEFFREY BEAVAN, resident United States manager for the London and Lancashire, spent a few days in Montreal recently, after which he visited Toronto.

MR. BENJ. T. CALIFF, for ten years past the general manager of the New York Life for New England, has resigned in order to accept a like position with the Manhattan Life.

MR. E. A. LILLY, Dominion manager of the London Assurance Corporation, has gone to Manitoba, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories looking after agency appointments for the London.

MR. WM. T. STANDEN, the well known actuary of the United States Life, has recently visited Montreal and Toronto, and expressed himself well pleased with the work of the company in Canada. Manager Cowley of Montreal is certainly achieving excellent results.

MR. R. O. ALLEN, of the *Weekly Underwriter* of New York, was in Montreal last week and called on the CHRONICLE. He was on his way home after a somewhat extended Western trip. He is a wide awake journalist representing a wide awake paper.

MR. THOMAS FERGUSON, of Ferguson & Grant, general Western agents for the Mutual Life of New York, with headquarters at Detroit, died recently at Denver, of consumption, aged 57 years. The deceased had been connected prominently with the above agency for more than 25 years.

MR. THOMAS H. COOKE, joint honorary secretary of the Institute of Actuaries, has resigned that position owing to ill health. Mr. Cooke is also the actuary of the Northern Assurance company. His successor in the joint secretaryship is Mr. Henry Cockburn, actuary and manager of the life department of the North British and Mercantile.

MR. J. MACDONALD OXLEY, of Ottawa, well known in literary circles, and for some time past a representative of the Sun Life at Ottawa, is about to become a resident of Montreal, having been appointed chief city agent of the above company in the English department. We welcome Mr. Oxley to the metropolis of Canada and wish him abundant success in his new position.

MR. GEO. H. MARKS, for several years past the able United States manager of the London Assurance Corporation, will retire from that position before long to accept an important position at the head office in London, where his value is evidently highly appreciated. It is stated that Mr. Chas. L. Case, for five years past the Western manager of the company at Chicago, will succeed Mr. Marks.

AS MENTIONED in the letter of our Toronto correspondent, Mr. A. W. Dodd has resigned as superintendent of agencies for the Western in order to establish an adjustment bureau at Toronto. This is a return to the line of his old business in the field where he achieved a good record during several years. The straightforward business ability of Mr. Dodd is well known, both in Canada and the United States, and we congratulate the fire offices on having the opportunity to avail themselves of Mr. Dodd's services as an adjuster of claims. We wish him the success he so richly deserves.