as to the value of stock in other departmental stores was properly rejected.

Mr. Justice Moss, after his lengthy analysis, said, "looking at the evidence as though it were before me for the first time, I have come to the conclusion that the plaintiffs have established their claim." He also referred to the argument for the insurance companies, that the agreement before the fire, to assign the policies afterwards, constitutes a change material to the risk, which under the Statutory conditions should have been notified to the company, and that the failure to do so avoided the risk, and pointed out that counsel for the defendants were obliged to admit that this contention could not prevail in the Court of Appeal, because that Court had decided in 1896 that such an assignment might validly be made.

The judgment of Osler, J., was as follows:—I concur in dismissing the appeal, but I do so solely on the ground that the concurrent findings of the two Judges of first instance cannot be interfered with. Had I felt free to decide according to my own view of the evidence, I certainly should not be able to give judgment in favour of the plaintiffs. Indeed, had the explanations on the part of the plaintiffs not been believed, I should have thought it inconceivable that the explanations could have been believed. However, as I have already stated, I do not see my way to interfere with the findings of the trial Judges.

Judge Maclennan's opinion was:—I concur in dismissing the appeal. At the conclusion of the argument, I thought that the findings of the trial Judges were not justified by the evidence, but, on further reflection and further consideration, I have come to the conclusion that the explanations given on behalf of the plaintiffs may reasonably be adopted. Apart from this, I feel that in any event the findings of the trial Judges in a case of this kind should not be interfered with on appeal.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents

TORONTO LETTER.

The Opening of the New City Hall Accomplished.—The Chief of the Toronto Fire Brigade.—Important Change in Fire Insurance Agencies.—The Death of C. M. Taylor, of the Waterloo.—Increasing Accomodation for Low Rates of Fire Insurance.

Dear Editor,—We have at last formally opened our new City Hall building with appropriate and modest ceremonies. Speeches, band-music, and a concourse of people and the freedom of the premises to all comers for the day were among the chief features. I must not omit to mention that elaborate gold key with which the Mayor formally opened the edifice. This was specially manufactured and presented for the occasion by a prominent jeweller of Toronto. The evening papers of the day gave a full size portrayal of this key, and, as its display occupied half a column or so, much editorial matter was thus economized.

The Chief of our Brigade still holds his baton, notwithstanding the determined assault on his position, to which I referred to in my last letter. He has a few valiant friends amongst the Aldermen, so, unless he resigns his post of his own free-will, I fancy he will not be disturbed for a while.

I understand the decree has gone forth since the last meeting of the C. F. U. A., and all Fire Insurance Agents holding appointments under Associated Companies will immediately have to decide whether they will retain such appointments or not under the new conditions, which require them to represent only the C. F. U. A. Companies. This measure will cause a flutter at many Agencies, for some of them have a very large business built up for non-tariff offices. The relinquishment of this will involve much loss to them. The Associated Companies consider that they should have all the business controllable by their agents, very reasonably too, seeing that rates and specifications and material supplied by them, also information gathered and formulated, has been wholly at their expense. That others, who have borne none of this expense, should enjoy the full benefit of all this, gratis, through having the services of the same agent, and, moreover, become competitors at lower rates of premium, is something they are unwilling to put up with longer. In order that this exclusiveness should attain its full value, and the objects aimed at by the Association be reached, perfect accord in action (time and insistency) should prevail. If I mistake not, several years ago a similar movement took place, introduced and resolved upon by the C.F.U.A., but subsequently this was rescinded. Partly, I think from lack of unanimity, and partly from failure of some of the Companies to carry out the proposed measure.

At the regular meeting of the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters to-day, cognizance was taken of the death on the 14th inst. of Mr. Cyrus Miller Taylor, so long connected with the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which Company he founded. The following resolution was fittingly passed: "Unanimously Resolved; That at this, the first meeting of the Board since the death of Mr. C. M. Taylor, late secretary of the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company, and for many years the esteemed representative of that Company at the annual meetings of this Board, we desire to place on record, the sorrow with which we received the intelligence of his death, and to express the sincere respect and regard in which he was held by the Toronto representatives of Companies."

I would here call to attention of your readers that the Waterloo Fire is a member of the C. F. U. A., and, in joining the Association as it did several years ago, showed considerable pluck and determination. Surrounded in its special field by many competitors, originated in the same locality, and with much local influence to support them, the Waterloo showed considerable courage in holding to tariff rates, as it commendably has done. Mr. Taylor's influence in this direction should not be forgotten.

It is rumoured that in addition to the Victoria-Montreal now domiciling in our midst, we are soon to have the new Ottawa Company, and also the Canadian Fire Insurance from Winnipeg. There is also I believe *on the stocks*, as yet, the Traders Fire Insurance Company. So you see we shall have enlarged facilities for doing non-tariff business, in addition to those already sufficiently, as some think, possessed. It is difficult to guess to what extent this increased competition is going to affect the incomes of the established companies. It is certain that trade and