

BANK CHANGES.

Mr. F. H. Matheson, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, at Winnipeg, will shortly become associated with Mr. Crombie, in the management of the Montreal branch.

Mr. Archibald Kains has been appointed to succeed Mr. H. B. Walker in the management of the Chicago business of the Commerce, Mr. Walker being about to assume his new duties as Treasurer of the Canada Life.

Mr. W. C. J. King, manager of the Berlin branch, will return to Montreal, pending the arrival of Mr. Matheson. Mr. King will be warmly welcomed by a large circle of friends.

The Halifax papers report the coming retirement, after a very long period of faithful banking service on both sides of the Atlantic, of Mr. D. H. Duncan, general manager of the Merchants Bank of Halifax. It is also stated that the Head Office of the branch will then be removed to Montreal, where Mr. E. L. Pease, the general manager, will reside.

PERSONALS.

Mr. C. R. Hosmer is homeward bound, a passenger on the new floating palace "Oceanic."

Mr. F. Standliffe, managing director British Empire Mutual Life, who is at present in England, is expected to return in the course of a couple of weeks to Canada.

Mr. A. M. Crombie, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has returned from a vacation in the Maritime Provinces, and his appearance is capital testimony to the health-giving climate enjoyed by our brethren on the Atlantic coast.

Notes and Items.

A STORY FROM VIENNA.—The "Politische Correspondenz" says that a deputation of American merchants from Manila has gone to Washington to promote a scheme for ceding the Philippines to Great Britain.

A PLEASING ERROR.—By a series of mistakes George W. Kelly, of Island Falls, Me., recently insured his life for \$4,000 instead of, as he supposed, one-half the amount. He died just after, and his wife is \$2,000 the richer for his mistake. The case deserves chronicling for its rarity. Most men err in the opposite direction. They do not realize that when they have paid the premium on their insurance they are in a very real sense worth the face value of the policy. When a man insures his life, death always seems too far away to allow him to appreciate the full significance of what he has done.

HOW SOME FILIPINO "SAVAGES" LIVED.—When Lieut. Col. Little, of the Twentieth Kansas, who was in command at San Fernando, Philippine Islands, entered the town the inhabitants fled. He took the two-story residence of Senor Dolores Singan as his headquarters, and found therein a photograph of a party taken in the house before the American troops had ever set foot in that part of the island. It shows the Filipinos at home in gala attire. Lieut. Col. Little says of the house: "It has beautiful furniture, much cut-glass with the initials of the owner thereon, a handsome clock ten feet tall in the hall, and gardens and chandeliers that are wonderful in their attractiveness. There are many such houses here. The roads are macadamized, telegraph lines are everywhere, and I am surprised at the advancement of the people. We have probably driven 1,000,000 people from their homes, and they are people who can read and write, dress in white, and are very neat and clean." He adds that the regiment is tired of duty at the front, and that with few exceptions it is ready to come home.—"Leslie's Weekly."

THE FIREMAN AND THE SOLDIER.—When a man is found running away from a burning haystack, his conduct is open to two constructions—one much to his credit and the other very much the reverse; and when the man in question is a fireman, the interest in the view which the law will take of the matter is considerably increased. A member of the Bury St. Edmund's Fire Brigade is in the uncomfortable position which we have indicated. A soldier strolling with his sweetheart in the outskirts of the town late in the evening saw a haystack alight and a man running away from it. The soldier seized the man and handed him over to the police—a natural enough thing to do. The fireman explains that he was running to give the alarm, which certainly would be a course of action as natural to the fireman on seeing the fire as that taken by the soldier on seeing him running away from it. The fireman is now under remand. There was never a case where it was more desirable that the evidence should be conclusive one way or the other. On the one hand incendiarism in a fireman should not go unpunished; and, on the other hand, it would be unfortunate if zeal and good intentions were rewarded by unremoved suspicion.—"The Insurance Observer."

INSURING STOCK SPECULATION.—Marine underwriters familiar with the problems attending the acceptance of war risks during the late war with Spain will be interested in the discussion now going on abroad over the possibility of insuring securities against a fall in price pending war rumors. The "Insurance Observer," of London, commenting editorially on the proposition, recalls the Baring crisis as affording "an awful example of the risks such enterprises (companies formed to write that class of insurance) would run." It believes that "the fluctuations in stocks and shares are of a nature which gives no basis on which actuarial science can establish itself."