

COLUMBIAN FIRE INSURANCE CO. is the title of a new enterprise organized in Philadelphia. There is a company of this name in Jersey City. Another project is the General Fire Insurance Co., in same city. The demand for fire insurance in that city is alleged to be in excess of the supply, it is reasonable to affirm, for the obvious reason that the business has been unprofitable.

THE MERCHANTS' AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S INSURANCE CO. has been incorporated at Dover, Delaware. The capital is said to be \$2,000,000, with \$2,000,000 surplus, but a prospectus is not infallible. The Company proposes to cut rates and to extend its business throughout the United States. The stockholders are to have specially low rates, which is an objectionable form of bait to secure subscriptions for stock. There is plenty of business to be done at a low rate, and high risk.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of Accident Underwriters will hold a Convention on 8th, 9th and 10th inst., at the Crawford House, White Mountains. The papers to be read cover a wide variety of topics, including, Health Insurance in its aspects:—a. As to confinement to house as a condition precedent to receiving indemnity; b. As to limiting indemnity to time actually under physician's care; As to varying lengths of time to be allowed for certain specified diseases and length of time; d. As to age. Should different premiums be charged for different ages and what limit should be fixed? e. As to occupation. Does it materially affect the health risk? The Commercial Traveller as a risk; fraudulent claims, etc., etc.

THE LEGAL RIGHT OF AN AGENT to switch a risk from one company by which it was cancelled to another company, without the insured's consent, was passed upon recently by the Court of Appeals, Kentucky, the judgment being that such right does not exist. Suit was brought by one Urbansky, against the Commercial Union, whose agent cancelled his policy on a Sunday, and at once rewrote it in the Norwich Union. "That night," reports the "Insurance Herald," "the risk was burned" Urbansky had not in the meantime been notified of the cancellation. The court held that a contract entered into on Sunday would have been void, but that there was no contract as a matter of fact, as the Norwich Union policy was taken out without Urbansky's consent; and further, that the company's agent could not be construed to be the agent of the plaintiff in the matter. The Commercial Union must, therefore, pay the amount of its policy.

AS TO THE BARBICAN FIRE. London, England, the jury reports, "That there was no evidence to show the cause of the fire; that there was no delay on the part of the brigade in arriving at the fire; that the causes of the rapid spread of the fire lay in the construction of the back part of the building, the combustible nature of the stock, the direction of the wind, the inability of the firemen to get to work quickly on arrival owing to lack of full steam pressure, and the delay in getting to work on the north side of Barbican." The jury added as a rider that they regretted the recommendation of the Cripple Gate Fire jury respecting the keeping of one engine with full steam up in all the stations in the City had not been complied with, and again urged the same recommendation; and further, that the street fire alarms be indicated in some distinctive manner by means of a lamp and a notice on the nearest lamp-post, showing the distance and direction of the nearest hydrant; and they further recommended that the authorities should offer reward for a system of automatic fire alarms.

MESSRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH & CO., Patent Solicitors, Canada Life building, furnish us with the following weekly list of patents granted to Canadians in the following countries. Any further information may be readily obtained from them direct. *Canadian Patents*:—C. St. Jacques, combination match boxes; M. C. Nixon, grinding machines; C. A. Fisher, friction clutches; L. Dubois, apparatus for cleaning sewers; H. Warner, apple peelers and corers; J. D. Somers, perambulators; G. H. Harland, supports for counters of boots and shoes; D. H. Browne and J. M. Neil, process for recovery of metallic tin; W. Maloney, grain thrashing mechanism; E. A. Spottedt and J. H. James, electrolytic separation of copper and nickel from mattes and ores; W. Wellwood and W. E. Linton, pedal actions; H. B. Fitz-Simon and E. P. Benoit, grain doors; H. M. Higgins, coffee pots; I. Liebe Rosenfield, screen cleaners; S. Tillson, combined folding and elevating clothes dryers; L. Fallourd, snap

hooks; P. A. Vansickle, disc ploughs; D. Dewar, temporary door locks. *American Patents*:—G. R. Clarke, apparatus for thawing frozen ground; R. W. King, automatic stoker and smoke consumer; Israel Kinney, knife; Israel Kinney, pocket-knife; Eli W. Lymburner, bicycle.

COLORADO FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS in 1901 with companies operating in Canada was as follows:

| | Risks written. | Premiums received. | Losses paid. |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Manchester | 2,410,875 | 37,356 | 9,320 |
| North British and M..... | 2,733,937 | 44,292 | 12,576 |
| Northern..... | 1,465,970 | 26,770 | 22,003 |
| Norwich Union..... | 1,796,370 | 31,449 | 18,634 |
| Phoenix, London..... | 5,944,493 | 34,884 | 7,715 |
| Phoenix, Hartford..... | 2,224,163 | 31,947 | 5,926 |
| Phoenix, N. Y..... | 4,268,858 | 72,360 | 15,775 |
| Royal..... | 3,072,551 | 48,256 | 9,724 |
| Scottish U. and U..... | 2,432,299 | 41,689 | 10,994 |
| Sun..... | 2,011,211 | 37,497 | 19,112 |
| Union..... | 2,407,747 | 40,623 | 10,892 |
| Western..... | 3,151,439 | 40,037 | 23,373 |

THE RATIO OF PROFITS AND LOSSES each year since 1894, of Pennsylvania Joint Stock Fire Companies, is given in the State report for 1901. For the last 10 years the record is as follows:

| | | |
|--|-----|-------|
| 1892, rate of profit to premium income | .42 | |
| 1893 " loss " | " | 10.77 |
| 1894 " profit " | " | .33 |
| 1895 " " " | " | 4.95 |
| 1896 " " " | " | 6.98 |
| 1897 " " " | " | 4.96 |
| 1898 " loss " | " | 6.31 |
| 1899 " " " | " | 12.55 |
| 1900 " " " | " | 8.49 |
| 1901 " " " | " | .18 |

Since 1892 those companies had a profit in 5 years and a loss in 5 years, but the losses were much larger in proportion to premiums than the profits.

PERSONALS.

MR. E. P. HEATON, manager of the Guardian, left for the West on Wednesday. He will visit Winnipeg and probably other places in Manitoba and the Northwest.

MR. JAMES MEIKLE, F.F.A., F.I.A., Vice-President of the Faculty of Actuaries, Scotland, who has served the Scottish Provident 63 years, is retiring to enjoy the quiet eventide of an estimable life.

MR. DAVID LAWRIE, foreign Superintendent of the London Assurance Corporation, London, England, called at THE CHRONICLE office last Monday. He sailed for home the following day.

MR. GEORGE MCBROOM, Superintendent of Agencies, London Life Insurance Co., called on us on 29th inst., on his way to the Maritime Provinces where the Company proposes to open up business.

MR. H. STIKEMAN, general manager of the Bank of British North America has returned from a visit to Great Britain.

MR. EDWARD COZENS-SMITH, on his retirement from the position of General Manager and Secretary of the Imperial Insurance Company, was presented by the members of the Company's staff with a massive silver salver which is described as "a unique and magnificent specimen of art." The presentation was made by Mr. Huth, the ex-chairman of the Company, at a gathering attended by the heads of all the departments, and many of the branch managers, who expressed much regret at parting with their respected chief, while wishing success and prosperity to what the "Post Magazine" styles, "the Titanic Unity Alliance and Imperial," under the management of Mr. Robert Lewis.

WANTED.—Competent Fire Insurance Inspector for Manitoba and the West. State Salary required. Application confidential in first instance to Chronicle, P. O. Box 578, City.