in the standard form of fire insurance policies used in this and many other States.

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The highest priced fire insurance stock in this city or State is that of the Glens Falls Insurance Company, for which $1,525 is bid, and the next highest priced is that of the Continental which has been offered at $1,025 per share. The Commonwealth Insurance Company, owned by the North British & Mercantile, is another high priced stock, being quoted at $326, with no sellers.

QUERIST.

New York, December 7, 1910.

Affairs in London.

(Exclusive Correspondence of The Chronicle.)

Business and the General Election—English Views of the Outbreaks in Mexico and Brazil—London to Bombay in Seven Days—Important Iron Combination—The Movement in Cement.

In view of the General Election, the city and business circles generally are preparing for a quiet month. It is vehemently denied that a General Election at this time of year effects adversely any particular business, but there can be little doubt left, after a chat with a few scores of city men in the course of the week, that this is not the view entertained within the City of London itself. There are about 200 prospectuses in draft form which have been suspended and "hung up" until the Election and Christmas festivities are out of the way. Printers, newspapers, solicitors, accountants, stockbrokers, bankers, are all, more or less, affected by the postponement of these flotations. It is true that several issuing houses have ventured to launch some of the more pressing new issues. They have met with varying success. There is little doubt that, had the General Election not been announced, there would have been a great rush of new companies. The cynic would say that we have much to be thankful for.

There were reports in Canadian circles in the city yesterday that two Canadian banks were about to amalgamate, but inquiries of a prominent Canadian bank show that there is no truth in the rumours.

English Views of the Mexican and Brazilian Outbreaks.

There are curious discrepancies between the reports which reach this side respecting the condition of affairs in Mexico and Brazil. In view of the big Canadian interests in these two centres I have made it my business to try and get at the real situation so far as it is known on this side. Puebla, where, under cover of a riotous outbreak, an attempt was made to overcome the Government forces, is best described as the Manchester of Mexico, and is full of factories and cotton mills. Its population (now about 100,000) is essentially drawn from a class quick to take fire from the anti-Government words of agitators. The reports of this trouble appear to have gathered volume as they spread, and as they led to many small factories disclosing revolutionary sentiments it is thought that the trouble may not be without its advantage to the government. As for the reported "revolution" in Brazil, "revolutions" are likely to recur so long as the strong jealousy and bitterness between the army and navy exist. The outbreaks can, however, hardly be described as "revolutionary," being merely the outcome of friction between the army, which is strongly pro-government and the navy whose officers do not like the strong military element in the administration.

London to Bombay in Seven Days.

This is the latest project in world communication —to travel between London and India in a week. Not long since, a plan for joining up the Russian and Indian railway systems by a line carried across Persia would have been regarded, in Great Britain and India at least, with suspicion and alarm. But we view things differently now. The cost is given as 21 millions sterling which is to be found by an Anglo-Russian syndicate. There will, of course, be international conditions, but the line is "not to be regarded as a tool for local political interest."

Scottish Iron Combination.

An important trade combination, embracing the whole of the Scottish malleable iron trade, is about to be launched, with a view to the better distribution of the trade and the removal of home competition. The combined output will be pooled; each firm will be allotted a percentage, and any excess of output will pass into the pool, from which firms which have fallen short in their production will draw and receive compensation. The system is already successfully governing the nail trade. The scheme will come into force in December.

The Movement in Cement.

With regard to the recent extraordinary rise in the shares of the Associated Portland Cement Company, which added £400,000 to their market value in a week, it is now suggested that cement producers here and on the American continent are combining to put up prices, and that appears to be sufficient cause for indulging in a big gamble.

LONDONER.

London, November 26, 1910.

The Canadian Fire Record.

(Specially compiled by The Chronicle.)

HUMBERSTONE, ONT.—S. J. Dickenson's planing mill, destroyed, November 25. Loss $7,000.

ILDERTON, ONT.—Methodist Church destroyed, November 27, owing to an overheated furnace.

OTTAWA.—Miss Maggie Griffin, aged 94, burned to death in her home at Port du Fort, Pontiac, December 2.

ROCKLYN, ONT.—Residence, including most of contents, owned by Mr. Henry Thompson, destroyed, December 2.

ST. CATHARINES, ONT.—Tug Beatrice, owned by Edward Lambert, of Welland, burned on Welland River, November 28.

LONDON, ONT.—Steele Fruit Company's warehouse, damaged, November 27. Cause, overheated gas stove set fire to the floor; loss $2,000.

COBLENTZ, SASK.—Hotel destroyed by fire, November 29, a large number of residents losing their personal belongings and cash. $6,000 insurance.

DAUPHIN, MAN.—Dwelling, and part of its contents belonging to E. A. Perkins, near Ochre River, destroyed, November 30. Only $300 insurance.