

The committee adjusted losses totalling \$9,850,000, but it is estimated that the losses of foreign unlicensed companies and other losses not reported would bring the aggregate to \$10,350,000, of which 20 per cent. was in buildings and 80 per cent. in contents. The total losses of the companies represented by the committee was \$8,200,000. Estimating the losses suffered by unlicensed companies at \$175,000, the total insurance loss would appear to be \$8,735,000, or 80 per cent. of the total value of property destroyed. The percentage of insurance to value upon buildings was about 65 per cent., and contents about 85 per cent. The 75 per cent. co-insurance clause was operative under the rules of the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters upon both buildings and contents, and was found in nearly all policies.

### FIRE INSURANCE ITEMS.

Ratepayers of Picton do not want their town to be modernized, they do not want to be protected. Last week they voted thus on proposed by-laws: \$25,000 for municipal building—For, 37; against, 228. \$25,000 for street walks and culverts—For, 69; against, 198. \$8,500 for electric light—For, 66; against, 199. \$5,500 for waterworks—For, 68; against, 186.

A deputation from the Toronto Board of Trade, consisting of Messrs. Morley (secretary), Allan, Ellis, Dignum and Oliver, waited on the police commissioners and asked that the police department adopt the same rules regarding the "fire lines" as are in operation in other large cities; that is, that owners of and employees in buildings threatened be allowed to pass the lines. The deputation showed letters from Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, New York and London, showing that this is the custom in these cities. The thing asked is so reasonable, and the stubborn attitude of certain policemen at our last big fire so unreasonable, that we cannot doubt what the view of the commissioners will be.

If any one should contend that creditors of Canadian retail merchants are a hard-hearted lot, we might point him to an occurrence of last week. A retail merchant at Wakefield, north of Ottawa, in business for twenty years or more, and reputed to be worth somewhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000, was burned out, and his creditors agreed to accept fifty cents in the dollar from him as in full. The fact of a compromise was not remarkable—we hear of that sort of thing almost every day in the week—but the circumstances of this one were remarkable. It turned out that the merchant in question had buildings estimated worth \$4,500, and a stock of merchandise valued at \$15,000; and upon these he had insurance of only \$3,000 while he owed to creditors more than \$6,000! Now, when his assets in goods and buildings are swallowed up by fire, he falls back upon the forbearance of creditors, pays them one-half of what he owes them, and gets a quittance. Is this fair to his creditors? The man knew that fires occurred; he knew that fire insurance companies existed; he should have reflected that if his shop and its contents burned he could not pay his debts in full. What excuse, then, was there for him not to carry more insurance? It was his duty to himself and to his creditors; for the ashes of houses and fragments of burned or smoke-damaged goods are poor assets with which to pay debts.

### LIFE AND ACCIDENT MEMORANDA.

James H. Stone, auditor of the Maryland Casualty Co., of Baltimore, and J. W. Mackenzie, the company's chief agent for Canada, are making a tour of the Dominion, and report healthy progress all along the line.

Mr. J. A. Kennard, formerly of Kirkpatrick & Kennard, managers for Canada of the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Co., has been appointed to the co-managership of the New England department of the same concern, with headquarters at Boston. Before associating himself with the company Mr. Kennard was for some years connected with the Fidelity and Deposit Co., having served in every one of its departments. Mr. A. E. Kirkpatrick will continue to look

after the company's interests in Canada. The results thus far obtained by this company in the Dominion are, we are told, most gratifying, and to this very promising field the company intends to spare no effort or expense.

The Supreme Court of the State has declared the newly-elected officers of the Massachusetts Grand Lodge of United Workman to be legally in control of the lodge. The case reached the Supreme Court by the filing of a petition for a writ of mandamus by seceding members, asking that they be recognized as the legal officers, and that the property of the Grand Lodge be turned over to them. By the decision of the court John Symonds is grand master workman instead of Carlan A. Brown, and Chas. Fearing grand recorder, instead of J. Edward Burt. The dispute in the Grand Lodge arose about an extra assessment which had been levied by the Supreme Lodge. Some members objected to this.

One of the companies in the United States has made a compilation from which we take the following: In New York City the deaths from accident during 1903 were 3,143, or nearly five per cent. of the deaths from all causes. A tabulation of the most sensational of the railroad catastrophes of 1903 in the United States places the number at 21; the list of killed amounts to 311, and of injured, 566. Of accidents due to any one cause we find "Run Over or struck by Street Car," with a total of 457. Falls were responsible for 1,255, personal violence for 1,156, steam and elevated roads for 914, and teams and vehicles for 893. Of mishaps in the street, 363 were caused by falling from wagons, and 376 by being run over or struck by teams. Of falls, 270 were on the sidewalk, 157 on the street, 169 down stairs, 116 from scaffolds, 111 from building under construction, and 78 from ladders. Many were due to carelessness in boarding street cars or in getting off them.

Contradicting an American insurance journal, which evidently did not know its Shakespeare well, and had denied that the three lines quoted below were to be found in Shakespeare, the Insurance Chronicle, of Montreal, refers that writer to the play of Macbeth. In Act V, Scene 5, he will find the words:

"And all our yesterdays have lighted fools  
The way to dusty death, Out, out, brief candle,  
Life's but a walking shadow."

The last line, continues the Chronicle, might make an expressive motto for a life company. An insurance solicitor would find an intimate acquaintance with Shakespeare very helpful in getting into touch with a large class of persons. In urging the wisdom of taking out a life policy on a sound company were he to quote, "I'll make assurance double sure," he would fix and impress this advice in the mind of the probable applicant as no words of his own could do. There are numbers of happy phrases on the Shakespearean dramas, the apt use of which by an insurance canvasser would be like a letter of introduction to thousands of men.

That some of the insurance commissioners of the various States of the American Union are "on the make" has unhappily been shown. Canadian underwriting companies have had sufficient experience of that sort of thing. The Wisconsin Commissioner, Mr. Host, is catching it just now from the United States newspapers. Asking, "Where the money went," the Insurance World, of Pittsburg, declares that the examination of the Prudential cost \$21,000. Mr. Host says he had a verbal agreement with Mr. Woolf, the actuary who did the work, and is stated to have received about \$3,000 for the job. Mr. Host himself \$1,100, another actuary about \$1,500, an examiner \$1,000, a deputy commissioner \$830, the Attorney-General \$750.

—When the Halifax Board of Trade advertised for a secretary, they had fifty applicants. From out this number they selected and appointed Albert T. Weldon, chief clerk in the freight office of the Intercolonial Railway at that city. Mr. Weldon, who assumes his new duties on August 1st, has been fourteen years in the service of the Intercolonial.