

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON SMITH,  
Proprietor.

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### Canadians Ahead.

A case has occurred which shows the value to policyholders of the protection given them by the deposit of insurance companies have to place with the Dominion Government. The "Insurance Herald" heads a notice of this case with the words, "Canadians got ahead of Yankees that time." Stewart Goodrell, receiver of the Covenant Mutual, and co-receiver of the Northwestern Life, which absorbed it, has been in Canada looking after the Covenant's deposit there of \$53,000. He had hoped to save some of this, but the Canadian authorities allowed the claimants to file claims against it for the full amount, disregarding the liens the companies had placed against their policies, which ate up \$40,000 of it. Most of the remainder will be consumed by the costs of liquidation, which are being charged against the deposit.

### Jupiter and the Waggoner Applied to Insurance.

The old fable relating to the rebuke given by Jupiter to the waggoner has many applications. The man who asked the god's aid to get his waggon out of a rut was bidden to put his shoulder to the wheel and lift it himself. There are thousands of persons who need a similar piece of advice. They complain week in and week out that the rates of fire insurance are excessive in their locality, or on their particular property. Yet the causes of these high rates they never take the trouble to ascertain, or, if they are told them by some insurance agent the grumbler never takes any steps to have the causes of high rates removed or modified. Defective fire protection is the mainspring of high rates. The responsibility for this defect rests entirely upon those who complain of fire insurance rates. Were the policyholders in any place to take energetic and combined action towards raising the local fire protection to higher efficiency

they would have sufficient influence with the local authorities to secure what is needed in the way of a better water supply, or fire brigade, or both. But, no! their waggon is in a rut, and they appeal to Jupiter instead of putting their own shoulders to the wheel.

### Alleged Slur on Colonial and Foreign Agents.

A complaint has been voiced by "The Surveyor," on behalf of those agents of insurance companies who are in the States or Colonies, who are not consulted by the head office when negotiations are in progress for an amalgamation. This is alleged to be a slur upon these agents, to be neglect that is discouraging. The complaint becomes less reasonable the more it is looked at. Suppose two companies in London are initiating negotiations looking to future amalgamation. What outside agents are to be consulted? Is it desirable to lay the whole matter before the agents in the principal cities of great Britain, and take them into consultation? Should also the chief agents in Australasia be consulted? Must the leading representatives in New York, Boston, Chicago be advised with? Also those in this city and Toronto? Every business person will see the utter impracticability of delicate negotiations being conducted under such conditions. We are unable, therefore, to see the alleged hardship of confining the knowledge of such negotiations to a few of the chief officials at the head offices of the companies concerned. But, the instant any decided step has been taken to change the organization of an insurance company, the chief agents in each country ought to be at once advised of what has occurred. This is so obviously proper that when any chief agent is not aware of a change having been made that is reported in the press, the presumption is very strong, that the report has no foundation.