

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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**An Actuary Rough on Actuaries.** Mr. William Hughes, president of the Institute of Actuaries, recently stated, that, "he knew persons to pass their examinations, who could not write a business letter or a clear report, and whose grammar was defective. He strongly advised young men to cultivate general literature a little more." Were the examinations of the Institute to include the above subjects, candidates would prepare themselves accordingly.

**Insurance Rates Raised at St. John, N.B.** In a recent issue reference was made to the inadequate fire protection at St. John, N.B. A description was given of a fire, where the service was so defective and so dilatory, that, if a fire broke out in a favourable place, it could not fail to develop into a conflagration. The New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters, under date 18th April, 1904, gives public notice that, "in consequence of the insufficient fire protection in St. John, an additional rate of 40 cents per \$100 has been made on all risks in that city (except in Stanley Ward), churches, dwellings, and their outbuildings and Sunday School houses, when occupied as such only, being excepted. This applies to all new business written between above date and 1st prox. It is marvellous that municipal authorities cannot see what false economy it is to impoverish the fire protective service, the neglect of which is so liable to cost the citizens enormously in excess of what is needed for an adequate service.

**Montreal Street Railway.** The statement of the Montreal Street Railway for March last, shows a larger amount of earnings than in same month last year, to extent of \$114,702. The benefit of this was, however, more than offset by the operating expenses having been greater than in March, 1903, by \$29,398; the miscellaneous earnings less by \$1,746,

and the fixed charges more, by \$1,376. These unfavourable changes left the surplus last month as \$16,972 against \$34,792 in March, 1903, a falling off to extent of \$17,820. The excessive cost of operating an electric road during a severe winter, with numerous snow storms, followed by thaws and frost, was experienced last season to the full. Not only was the cost of snow removal very heavy, but there were cars by the score being continually put out of condition. For the last half-year, Oct., 1902, to March, 1903, the surplus was \$250,748, as compared with \$265,296 in same period 1902-3.

### Profits of Clothing Manufacturers.

The New York Board of Fire Underwriters has investigated the average profit ratio of wholesale clothing manufacturers in view of claims made. The following are taken as typical examples of the range of profit shown:—

No.	Volume of Sales.	Period.	Percentage of Profit on Cost.
No. 1.....	\$407,895	9 months	12.6 p.c.
No. 2.....	92,531	4 "	8.7 "
No. 3.....	231,541	2 "	18.94 "
No. 4.....	348,102	9½ "	3.00 "

The "Insurance Field" speaking of handy methods of figuring profits in adjustment work, supplementing the old formula of dividing the sales by the rate per cent. of profit plus 100, gives the following table as one that will bring accurate results in ascertaining profits:—

Profit	5 per cent divide sales by	
" 6½	"	21
" 8½	"	17
" 10	"	13
" 12½	"	11
" 16½	"	9
" 20	"	7
" 25	"	6
" 33½	"	5
" 50	"	4
" 50	"	3