

QUERIES COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information, we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest, in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1016. C. E. G., Aylmer.—The Delaware and Hudson Company issues stock with the proceeds of which it retires its bonds. Five cents per ton of coal mined is set apart to retire stock and other securities, or \$175,000 to \$200,000 per year. In 1900 \$200,000 stock was retired from proceeds of sinking fund; in 1901, \$141,800; in 1902, \$151,100, and in 1903, \$100,000.

1092. H. B. G., Halifax.—The C. P. R. owned on the 30th June, 1903, 15,841,194 acres of land. The sales in 1902-3 amounted to 2,639,617 acres for \$9,695,673. The sales in 1901-2 were 1,589,068 acres for \$5,227,762. The outstanding land grant bonds at 30th June, 1903, were \$15,000,000, and bearing 3 1-2 per cent. interest per annum, guaranteed by the Dominion Government.

1101. R. S. W., London.—Dominion Iron and Steel Co. bonds form a good speculative investment at present prices. They return a large dividend on the amount invested, and in addition there is the speculative likelihood of an advance in price.

1034. A. M. C., Quebec.—The New York, Ontario and Western, is a good and growing property. Its sidings have been extended, so that with very little trouble, they could be connected, and thus give the company a double-tracked road. We understand that this will be done in the near future.

1028. G. D. B., Ottawa.—There is no telling when the payment of dividends will be resumed by the Rutland Road. While it has had a hard time during the past three months, it is believed that the losses can be made up with more favourable weather.

1014. H. J. M., Toronto.—Erie First Preferred sold in 1902 at 75 3-4, when it paid 3 per cent.; it now pays 4 per cent., and can be bought for 62. It is cheap.

1017. L. S. D., Montreal.—American Express Stock has always been held in high esteem as an investment purchase. We know of nothing that would be likely to lead to any marked appreciation in the value of the shares in the immediate future.

1026. R. R. C., Hamilton.—No! The Minnesota case against the Northern Securities Company is still pending. It will probably be decided along the same lines, but it raises different questions, and was argued by different counsel.

Notes and Items.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS, riders on a free pass, have no legal claim on the Company, if injured by accident to the train.

MR. A. W. WATSON, manager of the Eastern Townships', at Huntingdon, has been given charge of the branch at Waterloo.

HEAVY ASSESSMENT.—The Union, of Philadelphia, has levied an assessment of 75 per cent. on its stock, to meet losses at Baltimore.

THE NORTH AMERICAN LIFE, recently gave a dinner to its Michigan agents, at which Mr. Goldman, manager, delivered an address.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 10th March, 1904—Clearings, \$1,819,654; corresponding week last year, \$1,825,189.

FATAL RESULTS OF BALTIMORE FIRE.—The "Baltimore Herald," reports that thirty lives have been lost, directly or indirectly, by the conflagration, owing to exposure, heart disease from fright, etc.

WET WEATHER HEALTHY.—At the annual meeting of the Prudential, the chairman stated that the prolonged wet weather in England had "enabled the Company to make a large addition to its reserve fund, as a wet year in England means a low rate of mortality."

THE NEW YORK LIFE recently gave an entertainment at Lakewood, N.J., to about 300 of its agents from Canada, Europe, the West Indies and various parts of the States, at which addresses were delivered by President McCall and Vice-Presidents Perkins and Kingsley.

MR. R. HOPE ATKINSON, says the N. Y. "Chronicle," resigned as a metropolitan branch manager for the Prudential Insurance Company several days ago, and has accepted a like position with the Germania Life. Mr. Atkinson was for long Canadian representative of the New York Life.

BRITISH INSURANCE COMPANIES.—In a lecture under the auspices of the University of London School of Economics, Mr. Kitchin stated the net premium income of British fire offices was \$102,500,000; marine companies, \$21,500,000; members of Lloyd's, \$35,000,000; life offices, \$160,000,000; accident and other companies, \$24,000,000; a total of \$343,000,000.

WHEN THE ROYAL OF LIVERPOOL, lost over a million dollars at Baltimore, its home office took the amount from its small-change pocket and sent it to this country, leaving the Company's United States assets intact. A million dollars, more or less, is not so much to the great Royal of Liverpool, for it has "made good" in so many conflagrations that it is easily fireproof.—"Insurance Post."

A CELLULOID FIRE.—The factory of the Fibrelloid Company, Newburyport, Mass., was badly injured on 7th inst. by fire, the loss being \$75,000. The fire, says "The Standard," shows that large quantities of celluloid on fire cannot be handled by either sprinklers or hose streams. There were 63 insurance companies interested, the total amount written was \$217,201. It is very notable that not a single English company had a line on this factory.