

meningitis, and died before the note fell due, although he was under the impression that his life was fully protected to the extent of the policy. The company refused to recognize the policy, and, on the widow suing to collect it, the judge took the case from the jury on a point of law and dismissed it with costs against the widow. The judge drew attention to the fact that, under the terms of the policy the contract did not come into effect until the first premium had actually been paid during the good health of the insured. But not only did the evidence show that cash had not been paid, but that the note was to be paid for in the shape of solicitation work.

Mr. Nelson B. Smith has been added to the Halifax board of the London and Lancashire Life Assurance Company in the room of the late Hon. John F. Stairs. The board now consists of Messrs. Hector McInnes, J. C. O'Mullin, Walter Mitchell, H. R. Silver and Nelson B. Smith. At the last board meeting in Halifax, the general manager of the company, Mr. B. Hal Brown, referred to the new business of the present year up to end September as showing an increase of 20 per cent. over the same period in 1904.

FIRE INSURANCE MATTERS.

Paterson, N.J., proposes to abolish the floor watch in all local fire engine houses. Last June, when a reduction of 15 per cent. was made in insurance rates, one of the considerations was that the floor watch system should be introduced and maintained. If that sort of tactics is countenanced in Paterson, the insurance companies ought to be able to meet it without much trouble.—Investigator.

Agents of stock companies in New England are becoming considerably disturbed over the enormous loss of business to the "factory mutuals," estimated at \$10,000,000 in the last two years. The alleged causes are various according to the losers, among them being lower rates and friction with rating committees and special agents. The mutuals write the business sometimes at 16 to 20 cents a hundred under the stock rates. Of course, they employ no brokers, and thus save their commission of 15 to 20 per cent.—United States Review.

A very considerable business is shown by the Richmond, Drummond and Yamaska Mutual Fire Insurance Company, whose year lately closed, the revenue having reached \$90,000. The losses by fire were \$43,000 odd. Both revenue and losses were the largest in the history of the company. The assessment levied to cover the losses and expenses is, we are told, the same as last year. Mr. F. Prefontaine was re-elected president, Mr. C. C. Cleveland vice-president, Mr. McCaig manager and secretary, Mr. Bothwell general inspector, and Directors Jones and Lyster the Executive Committee.

One of the old mutual fire insurance companies of the Province of Quebec is the Missisquoi and Rouville. Its seventieth annual report tells us that the number of risks in force on the mutual system was 4,165, and under the cash system 730, a total of 4,895, insuring \$5,187,059. The premiums and assessments amounted to \$25,777, and the losses to \$9,871, a ratio of 38.3 per cent. The total expense was \$9,688. The assets amount to \$117,223, of which sum \$51,535 is municipal securities, and \$14,950 cash, the remainder being composed of premium note capital, etc. Mr. H. B. Mussen has left the employ of the Canada Atlantic Railway, and has formed a partnership with Mr. W. T. Stewart to engage in insurance brokerage at Montreal.

DRY GOODS NOTES.

Mr. W. Smith, of Philadelphia, Pa., proposes to start a hosiery factory in London, Ont.

Owing to dullness in the Kidderminster carpet trade it is said many weavers are on their way from that town to Canada.

A bulletin issued by the Census Bureau at Washington shows the production and distribution of the cotton of the United States available between September 1, 1904, and September 1, 1905, to be 14,455,994 bales. Of this, 61 per cent. was exported, 30 per cent. was used in domestic consumption, leaving a surplus of 9 per cent.

It is now stated in Montreal that the attempted absorption of the Montreal Cotton Company by the Dominion Textile Company is "off" for the present, the shareholders of the former having listened to the advice of men prominent in their management to pool their holdings in order that they might be sure the combine should not obtain control.

From a study of conditions in the fine dress goods trade it looks as though the most popular colors for fall will be greens, reds, plums and purples. Broadcloths are general favorites. For spring there is a leaning toward taffeta batiste. High-class eoliennes are doing well, both in the plain weaves and fancy designs. The demand for immediate delivery runs to broadcloths, panama weaves, serges, henriettas and similar plain materials and a few plaids. Suitings in black and white worsted effects are in demand also.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

"That lady who just went out—didn't I hear her ask you for fresh-laid eggs?"

"Yes, sir," the clerk answered.

"And you said we hadn't any?"

"Yes, sir; that is correct."

"The grocer, purple with rage, yelled: 'Didn't you see me lay those eggs myself on the counter not ten minutes ago? You are discharged, you mendacious scoundrel, and see that you don't look to me for a reference, either.'"

The Moyune Tea Company, Limited, is the name of a company which has just been granted by the Ontario Government a charter authorizing it to purchase the business now carried on in Toronto by A. H. Pepall and H. P. Nasmith, and to import and buy and sell teas, coffees and groceries.

The British Columbia Government has decided to be represented in the various fruit exhibitions in England this year, and not only this, but to send large commercial shipments for distribution and sale at various points. A special commissioner will be sent out having these in charge. The Canadian Pacific Railway will co-operate by giving free freight to Montreal.

Very good reports continue coming to hand regarding the volume of live stock shipments from Alberta. A press despatch of 16th inst. said that nearly fifty thousand head will have been taken from the ranges before the season closes. The stock will go in better condition than for years, because of the abundance of grass. The prosperity among the farmers and stockmen can be understood in the light of statements by implement men that five times as much was collected last month on machinery notes as was collected for the same time last year. One firm has outstanding in Alberta \$300,000 of these notes, and the payment before maturity to save three months' interest has been very large, and so it should be.

A paragraph from the report of Mr. A. MacLean, Canadian agent in Japan, which appears in the weekly report dated 9th October of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, reads as follows: "Owing to warmer and more settled weather since the beginning of September the shortage of the rice crop, which was at one time estimated at about 20 per cent., will be materially decreased. According to investigations made by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the rice crop throughout the country this year is estimated at 40,292,653 koku (one koku nearly five bushels), which shows a decrease of 9.1 per cent. compared with an average year. It is, however, yet premature to form an estimate nearly accurate."

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