

INSURANCE COMPANY NOTICES.—"The Pacific Marine Underwriters," will seek incorporation next Session, place of business, Vancouver, B.C. The Lumbermen's Fire Insurance Company, will ask power to revive and amend its Act of incorporation. The Temple Mutual Insurance Association will ask power to carry on life insurance for the Masonic Order. The Royal Victoria Life Insurance Company will ask power to increase the capital stock by \$500,000 and to issue the new capital as preferred or otherwise.

The Interocean Fire Insurance Company will ask for incorporation with a capital of \$500,000, head office, Winnipeg.

PROPOSED NEW FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—Some of the residents of Regina and others wish to promote a new fire insurance company with head quarters in that city.

NEW BRUNSWICK.—The Legislature of New Brunswick was opened on 8th inst. The Lt. Governor referred to the growth of Canada westwards, to the dairy interests, to the visit of Prince Louis of Battenburg, to Mr. Prefontaine's death, etc.

The question of obtaining an increase to the subsidy from the Dominion Government was referred to, as is the custom when Provincial Legislatures are opened. It is high time this matter were settled on some permanent basis. This is a question which should be seriously considered and arranged on an equitable and broad basis. Canada is growing—and there are those who consider that the provinces are entitled to more than they receive at confederation.

TO SECURE BANK DEPOSITS.—A Bill is before Congress to impose a tax of \$100 on every National Bank in the United States, until a fund of \$6,000,000 is accumulated, to be applied by the comptroller to supplement the assets of a failed bank in order to ensure payment in full of depositors. The equity of such a tax is questionable.

THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY will hold its annual meeting of shareholders and policyholders, at Toronto, on 28th inst.

THE NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, OF CANADA.—It having been alleged that the ex-managing director of this company had made statements misrepresenting its position we are glad to observe that this has been contradicted by the present managing director.

It would not only have been very unwise for the exmanaging director to have made such statements, but, such conduct would have been wholly out of keeping with his long record.

THE HON. JOHN MCCALL, ex-president of the New York Life, is reported to be so seriously ill as to preclude hopes of his recovery.

Very general sympathy is felt for Mr. McCall who was always looked up to with the greatest respect from a business and social standpoint.

ANTI-USURY BILL.—A Bill is before the Quebec Legislature which is intended to restrain the proceedings of a certain class of usurious money lenders who prey upon the poorer class of borrowers.

It is to be hoped the Bill will pass in such a form as to put a stop to the extortions practiced by those persons who fleece their victims unmercifully. At the same time care must be taken not to shut the door against the possibility of being able to secure loans on a reasonable basis.

Those who extort usurious rates are not entitled to any sympathy.

CHILDREN PLAYING WITH FIRE.—Some months ago we published the contents of a circular issued by "The British Fire Prevention Committee" offering prizes for fables and stories calculated to impress children with a sense of the great danger of playing with matches and with fire.

The committee favours us with a list of the awards, one of which was accorded to Mr. J. W. Bengough, Toronto. Flame has a wonderful fascination for children and every possible means should be adopted to prevent them getting possession of matches or of any article of a combustible nature.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA held its annual meeting on 14th inst., when Mr. F. W. Thomson was elected a director. The number of the Board was increased from 7 to 8, three being allotted to Montreal, where the head office is likely to be in the future. The bank may issue new stock to amount of \$1,000,000 under powers now possessed.

THE STANDARD BANK OF CANADA.—At a special meeting the shareholders passed a resolution authorizing an issue of \$1,000,000 more capital of which \$250,000 is to be allotted to the shareholders at \$200 per share, equal to a premium of 100 p.c.

MR. F. H. MATHEWSON, who was recently elected by acclamation President of the Montreal Board of Trade, gave a most enjoyable dinner on 14th inst. to the past presidents and members of the Council of the Board of Trade, railway magnates, and other prominent citizens amongst whom was Sir Melbourne Tait.

The toasts were limited to the King, Railways, Industries, Harbour Board, and Past Presidents of the Board of Trade, which were proposed and responded to in most felicitous terms.

Sir Melbourne Tait in proposing the health of the host, said that although the Board of Trade had been in existence some 60 or more years Mr. Mathewson was the first banker to have the honor of being elected president. He congratulated him on his election and the Board of Trade on having as its chief officer one who was so well versed in mercantile affairs and banking.

In responding to the toast of his health Mr. Mathewson expressed his high appreciation of the honor conferred upon him and said he would do his utmost to further the interests of the Board of Trade. He pointed out that such a body of representative citizens exercised a great influence in connection with the general affairs of the country.

MERGER REPORTS NOT AUTHENTIC.—In our last issue the rumours respecting the amalgamation of the chief iron and steel enterprises of Canada were stated to be without authority, as, in the case of the