

We are able to state, on the authority of Mr. Lees of the London office of the Caledonian, that no appointment has yet been made of a manager for that company in place of the former general agents, Messrs. Taylor Bros. It is a common street rumor, which is much criticised by underwriters, that the younger son of a well known broker in this city has been recommended for the position. In fact, two trade journals, who seem to know all about it, stated that the appointment was made some time ago.

In our legal columns will be found the text of the decision by the Court of Appeal, in the well known case of the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company against Mr. Walter Kavanagh. This decision confirms that of the Superior Court, noted at the time, entirely exonerating Mr. Kavanagh from the charge, while acting as agent of fraudulently transferring a policy to the Connecticut. We learn that the company has given notice of appeal to the Privy Council—a proceeding which occasions some comment.

Insurance Commissioner Merrill of Massachusetts, in the *Lawrence American*, of which he is the proprietor, replies to the threats of a contemporary, that the assessment endowment orders will "down" the commissioner when his term expires in 1893, thus: "The poor fool; before 1893, there will not be a short-term order in existence; and the thousands of deluded and defrauded members will be so sharply gunning for the fellows whose specious promises seduced them into membership, that not a man will be found who dares confess that he was a promoter of one of the wild cats."

The death is announced of Mr. Hezron A. Johnson, aged 73, at Newport, R. I., holding the third policy issued by the Mutual Life of New York. The holder of policy number one surrendered it in 1862, and the holder of number two died some years ago, leaving Mr. Johnson the senior policyholder of the company, he having outlived more than 36,000 of fellow policyholders. When his policy was issued the company practically had no assets, yet he lived to see it possessed of over \$147,000,000 of solid assets, the largest in amount of any life assurance institution in the world.

With very strange ignorance of the facts, a writer in the *Weekly Statement* not long since allowed himself to moralize over the alleged neglect of Sir Walter Scott to protect his future by life assurance, whereupon the *Baltimore Underwriter* sharply corrects this inexcusable blunder by calling attention to the well-known fact that Sir Walter, according to Lockhart, carried the large amount of £22,000 on his life, and was a director in two life assurance companies—the Edinburgh and the Scottish Union. Sir Walter Scott was conspicuously an advocate of life assurance, and practised what he preached.

We see it stated that the new business of the Union Mutual Life so far for the current year is considerably larger than for the same period last year. This may very well be, for the net premiums on new business during 1890 only amounted to \$157,289. We hope to learn, however, that the increased new business this year has been obtained at much less cost than that of last year, which was altogether too expensive to be continued. The general expenses (exclusive of taxes and fees, rents, and new office furniture) amounted to over 155 per cent. of the net new premiums, after deducting from expenses 7½ per cent. of the renewal premiums for taking care of the old business. This ought to be an exceptional experience, for no company can well afford to get business at such a price.

A case has reached the courts in Kansas City, involving the same question as that raised in Montreal in the case of the widow of Myers (the man killed a few months ago by Reynolds), brought against the Travelers insurance company under an accident policy. One Greever, holding an accident policy in the Travelers, was killed in November last, by Charles Clifford, at a hotel in Kansas City. The company refuses to pay, on the ground that the policy excepts liability where the insured dies from "intentional injuries inflicted by himself or another person," and also on the ground that the insured unnecessarily exposed himself to danger.

It seems that when the proposition, referred to in our last issue, to divide the fire insurance of the Montreal city property equally among the companies came up in the finance committee last week, that three or four of the aldermen, notably Alderman Clendinning, got off the usual nonsense about the city carrying its own insurance, etc. Would these gentlemen be willing to apply the same rule to their private business and carry their own insurance? Not exactly; and if they had done so, in what position would some of them be to-day? The rate proposed by the companies was a moderate one, \$1.32½ for three years. What the council will do remains to be seen.

PERSONAL MENTION.

MR. JUNKIN of the Sun Life has removed his headquarters from Brockville to Ottawa.

MR. A. W. REID of Kingston has been appointed agent of the Mutual Fire of New York.

MR. CHAS. LEES, London secretary of the Caledonian, left Montreal for New York on Tuesday last.

MR. W. M. RAMSAY of the Standard Life, left for British Columbia and the Northwest on the 30th ult.

INSPECTOR CHADWICK of the Temperance and General Life is actively organizing its agencies in Eastern Ontario.

MESSRS. GIBSON AND TURNER have been appointed district agents in Gananoque for the Standard Life Assurance Co.

MR. ROBERT LEWIS, secretary of the Alliance of London, spent a few days in Montreal during the past month, and also visited New York.

MR. G. F. C. SMITH, resident secretary of the Liverpool and London and Globe, is making the tour of British Columbia and the Northwest.

MR. G. H. ALLEN of Kingston, inspector for the Standard Life, reports the business of that excellent company booming in Eastern Ontario.

MR. D. MARSHALL LANG, late secretary of the Glasgow and London insurance company, has become secretary of the Church Missionary Society.

MR. C. M. GREER, special agent at Halifax of the Western of Toronto, made us a pleasant call while passing through Montreal to visit Toronto and other Western cities recently.

MR. J. HARMAN ASHLEY, favorably known among insurance journalists, has taken the Editorial management of the *Insurance News* of Philadelphia, and will make a readable paper of it.