

**Copying The "Chronicle's" Tables.** Several of our contemporaries have republished in whole or part, the statistics collected at considerable trouble and expense by THE CHRONICLE which appeared in our issue of February 7. In every case they copied an irregularity in the order of the companies which appeared in our table. This, of itself, is conclusive evidence of the figures having been copied from this journal, as such irregularity was quite accidental and over-looked when the proof was read in this office. We note also, in one case, that a contemporary copied the loss figures from the wrong column. We gave losses in one column, expenses in a second, and in a third column these were combined, whereas our contemporary puts the total amounts of losses and expenses combined under the heading "Losses," which is a very misleading and serious error. We note also that the figures of one company are repeated, and the names and returns of two large companies are wholly omitted by a Toronto contemporary. THE CHRONICLE is always glad to be of service to other journals, but would prefer to have such services acknowledged.

**A Tribute to Fireproofed Wood** The "Scientific American" does not regard the Park Avenue Hotel fire as any evidence that fire proofing is a failure. It says: "On the contrary, there is every reason to believe that it was the fire-proof construction of the hotel, limited though it was in degree, that prevented a positive holocaust, in comparison with which the present loss of life would be insignificant. Strictly speaking, the building should be called semi-fire-proof. It was built over twenty years ago, and probably included all the latest ideas on fire-proof construction. The main walls, which are of brick, are substantial, and have a cast iron sheathing on the outside. The floors consist of I-beams with brick arches turned in between. There are the usual partition walls, and, of course, there is an abundance of inflammable woodwork throughout the building.

"The evidence thus far come to light tends to show that the fire started at the bottom of an elevator shaft and spread from thence to the corridors on the various floors; and it is to the existence of a considerable amount of woodwork in the elevator shaft, in the windows opening from the shaft to the courtyard, and in the doors leading to the corridors, that the exceedingly rapid spread of the fire is due. Had this woodwork been fire-proofed it is probable the fire would have been confined to the shaft, and that not a single life would have been lost. At the same time, the evidence of the chief of the fire department

shows that the hotel was sadly deficient in fire-fighting apparatus. The firemen complained of being unable to find standpipes or fire hose, and there appears to have been but very inadequate provision of fire alarms for meeting such an emergency as occurred on the night of the disaster." The suggestion is made that more conspicuous signs should be placed in hotels directing guests to fire escapes, or alternate stairways, or elevators. The endorsement of fire-proofed wood by the "Scientific American" should have great influence over architects and builders.

**New Move in Accident Insurance.** A prominent American accident insurance Company has taken a step that is likely to have an important effect upon accident underwriting. In order to meet the varied forms of competition that have arisen in the business this company is offering to issue policies similar in conditions to those of any other company, of course with certain undefined exceptions as to terms. Should this be found successful it may lead to other casualty companies offering to do whatever is done by any other companies. This, practically, would mean the adoption of a uniform policy of a highly mixed, mosaic character, a thing "of shreds and patches." The idea seems to have been taken from Artemus Ward's political platform, which, he told the electors, could be altered if it did not suit. The movement seems to foreshadow the accident companies adopting a standard policy as the call for policies of all manner of varieties might become an intolerable nuisance.

**An Irish Wool Industry.**

The city of Galway Woollen Factory is reported to be doing a large and profitable business. At the recent annual meeting of shareholders it was stated that the weavers had plenty of work. One speaker is reported in the "Finance Union" to have said:

"The country people have derived a great deal of benefit from it, because it placed them in a position for having their wool prepared for them, so that the factory gave a great deal more employment than people imagined. It was satisfactory to find that the tables were turning, and they were even getting orders from England for their cloths and tweeds. Hitherto, England supplied clothing and a great deal of shoddy for the people of this country, but now English people were beginning to find that the Irish are able to manufacture better material, and he, for one, would be better pleased to get an order from England for Galway manufacture than two from Ireland, because it was reversing the order of things that had prevailed till lately, when we were sending to England our raw material and importing the manufactured goods. We are now working our raw