

INSURANCE MATTERS

President Batterson, of the Travelers Life Insurance Co., Hartford, died on Wednesday morning. The funeral will take place to-morrow.

The Manchester Assurance Company has acted very wisely in transferring its accident department to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Accident Insurance Company, says The London Review. The accident business, and the employers' liability business, etc., do not form exactly a bed of roses, and many big offices which took up this branch of insurance have got thoroughly tired of it, and many have got rid of it, while others, we think, would be very glad to do so if they could see an opening. The Manchester has a very big fire insurance business, and we are sure that the action now taken is for the best interests of the company.

Good has been done by the assemblage in a series of yearly meetings in the United States of the National Association of Local Fire Insurance Agents. Some of their discussions have had a beneficial effect not only upon the delegates themselves but upon other persons and other bodies. The sixth annual convention of this association was held on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week at Put-in-Bay Lake Erie. Mr. George D. Markham, delivered an address which first described the attitude of the body as to legislation that will relieve the fire insurance business from any needless burdens. Much of the legislation passed by many of the States is not only foolish but harmful. How the agents got the war stamp tax on fire policies removed by pouring in broadsides of remonstrating letters upon their representatives in Congress, may prove an object lesson to some other bodies. "We cannot serve the public or the insurance interests better than by securing well-designed fire marshal by-laws in every state," said Mr. Markham.

Mr. J. M. De Camp, of Cincinnati, president of the Western Union Association of fire insurance companies, began his address with greetings and congratulations which, he said, he was glad to bring to so large and influential a body. It was agreeable to him to revive the Committee on Conference on the invitation of the secretary of the Kentucky Agents' Association, who asked that their request for such a committee be presented to the Union. In the course of his address he said: "I think agents as a class are too apt to depreciate themselves in their relations to their companies, forgetting that we are all agents, whether officers or managers, in the sense that we are trustees and custodians of others' interests, and that whatever our special title, we are each in duty bound to be obedient, loyal, careful and zealous in the matters committed to us."

At the British Medical Association's meetings at Cheltenham, an important paper on "Diseases of Occupation" was read by Dr. T. M. Legge, medical inspector to the Factory Department of the British Home Office. He had been struck, he said, by the difference between the symptoms produced among workers making or using poisonous materials and those produced when the same substances were used medicinally. The manufacture of cyanide of potassium was almost, if not entirely, innocuous. Workers in arsenic suffered from skin affections, but not from neuritis. Phosphorus in factories attacked only the jaw, there was no general phosphorism. The effect of inhaling dust was a difficult question; with the exception of dust containing flint, steel particles and possibly the dust of flax, evidence of injury had not been made clear. In the earthenware trade 6,361 persons were employed in the lead process, of whom 4,213 were males and 2,148 females; the rate of attack was 2.3 per cent. among males, and 4.9 per cent. among females. Of all trade diseases anthrax was the most varied in its manifestations, and the most difficult to control. At the same gathering, Sir William Thomson, in the general address on surgery, dealt with the surgical lessons of the South African campaign. In the American Civil War the proportion of killed among those hit was 17.97 per cent., whilst the latest figures for South Africa gave a proportion of 14.8 per cent. Nothing had been more remarkable than the large proportion of wounded who recovered—due to the char-

acter of the bullet, the early application of dressing and the climate. The injuries to bones caused by the high velocity of modern fire was very severe, but in no war had the amputations been so few and so many limbs been saved.

—The annual convention of the American Bankers' Association, which was to have been held in Milwaukee on the 24th, 25th and 26th September, has been postponed indefinitely by reason of the death of President McKinley.

—Mr. W. L. Lindsey, in a private letter dated Mexico, Sept. 9, writes: "Business houses here are very solid, and failures are very rare. Stocks are steady and strong, and pay from 10 to 12 per cent. Investments can be made here in standard stocks, with perfect security, to yield 10 per cent. Bank rates are 10 to 12 per cent., and even higher. Loans on real estate bear also 10 per cent., at security. The country is not booming but is going ahead steadily."

—At the present time there is going on in Swansea, Wales, an important trades union congress. Two of the most important difficulties it has to face are the rulings recently made by the English courts that picketing is illegal and allowing proprietors to obtain money damages against unions. The congress has decided to adopt a middle course in this matter and set aside a large fund for legal defence. The other union funds will be placed so that it will be difficult to have them seized in case damages are awarded employers.

—We have already stated that Mr. J. J. Stewart has been elected president of the People's Bank of Halifax, in succession to the late Mr. O'Mullin. We now learn that Messrs. John Murphy, of J. & M. Murphy, wholesale dry goods, and Andrew Mackinlay, of A. & W. Mackinlay, wholesale stationers in that city, have been appointed directors. The board is therefore now constituted as follows: J. J. Stewart, president; George R. Hart, vice-president; W. H. Webb, Hon. G. J. Troop, John Murphy, Andrew Mackinlay,

—The report of the American Department of Agriculture on the condition of the various crops of the country on Sept. 1 indicates a decrease in the total yield of wheat—spring and winter both included—comparing with the promise of August 1 of 14,000,000 bushels. No further separate report on either the spring or winter crop was made and none will be made until the Department promulgates its final harvest returns—probably in December. The indicated harvest is now 644,835,000 bushels.

—The committee on membership of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association report the acceptance of seventeen more applications. To show how widespread in its scope the association is becoming, it may be stated that fifteen of these applications are from British Columbia and Manitoba. A good idea being put into force by the secretary is the writing of an article or pamphlet on the industries of Canada, for the better information of the British and foreign newspaper correspondents accompanying the Royal party on their tour through this country.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, September 12th 1901, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	September 18th 1901.	September 12th, 1901
*Montreal.....	\$.....	\$20 882,427
Toronto.....	12,472,626	15 586,842
Winnipeg.....	2,217,717	2 285,143
Halifax.....	1,634,613	1,567 425
Hamilton.....	849,144	815,342
St. John.....	850 229	915,325
Vancouver.....		1,196,085
Victoria.....	483,306	680,437
Quebec.....	933,000	1,462 274
Ottawa.....		1,638,361
	\$.....	\$47,029,661

*No report; Banks closed.