

The Chronicle

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R. WILSON-SMITH,
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Overhead Wires.

The Baltimore authorities have strictly prohibited the stringing of electric wires for any purpose, within the district of the conflagration. What poles existed, have been removed. For some time prior to the fire the policy of placing all electrical wires in conduits, was under consideration, the stringing them on poles having become recognized as a special hazard and often a very dangerous obstruction to the work of fire brigades. It is the opinion of experts that the damage done by the Baltimore conflagration was aggravated by the electrical wires being strung on poles.

Municipal Insurance Lessons.

Wisconsin has learnt and taught also a lesson in regard to municipal insurance. The magnificent Capitol of that State was destroyed by fire on 27th ult., entailing a loss of close upon a million dollars. Towards meeting this loss the local authorities had accumulated a fund of \$6,000 saved by not paying for insurance! The State University of Ohio also had a similar experience by the destruction of one of its buildings, the loss being estimated at \$120,000, there being no insurance. The State of Iowa lost heavily some time ago by its principal public building being burnt, on which there was no insurance.

Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Society.

The 78th annual general meeting of the above Society was held on the 10th inst., at Glasgow, Scotland.

The new assurances for the year ending 31st December, 1903, were \$2,915,790, and the total assurance in force at that date amounted to \$47,872,875.

The claims by death and matured endowments equalled \$1,044,155, the aggregate of the claims by death being exceptionally small—69.5 per cent. of the expectation, according to the H. M. Table of

the Institute of Actuaries, in which the office calculations are based:

3 died at age 90 and upwards.
34 died at age 80 and under age 90.
77 died at age 70 and under age 80.
71 died at age 60 and under age 70.
78 died under age 60.

The A. O. U. W. in Trouble.

The Ancient Order of United Workmen in the United States is reported to be in trouble, owing to the heavy increase in its assessments. In the Eastern States a number of lodges are stated to have withdrawn from the Order. The death claims have risen to such a degree as to far exceed the financial resources. In 1903 the deficit was over \$300,000. This awkward feature, naturally enough, has been going up yearly, hence higher rates had to be imposed and more frequent assessments, an especially hard case for older men. Reports are current that ten per cent. of the members have withdrawn and the utmost difficulty has been found in securing the new members which are absolutely needful to keep a fraternal assessment society afloat. Experience is teaching the Workmen what they have been told, and what has been demonstrated to be true over and over again. The fascination of "cheap insurance" blinded them.

False Statements' Act.

An act has been prepared by the Attorney-General, Solicitor-General, Lord Advocate and Attorney-General for Ireland, "to amend the law relating to false statements with respect to the financial position of companies or other bodies." The Act reads:—

1.—(1) If any person, being a director, manager, secretary, or other officer of any company or being the auditor of a company, whether an officer or not, wilfully circulates, publishes, or makes or prepares