

English is the Loan and Savings Company, Limited, has been the subject of two enquiries from subscribers. We reply that its office is at No. 20 St. Alexis Street, Montreal; it partakes of the speculative or lottery character, having "drawings" of some sort of premium bonds for those who want to get-rich-quick. Its promoter is A. Milette, also the promoter of the Transit Insurance Company, of which we have had something to say. The concern was incorporated by the Quebec Legislature in February, 1901, with an authorized capital of \$250,000, and startlingly wide powers; for instance, power to issue bonds to the extent of \$1,000,000. Ten per cent. of the capital was at that time deposited in bank, it is understood, by some of the parties interested, but subsequently withdrawn. How much real cash is in the thing we cannot find out. They only began doing business in the spring of 1903.

S. R., Peterboro.—We do not know any reason that no answer came, but you may have noticed that it was decided on Thursday or Friday of last week to suspend business on the New York Stock Exchange, on Saturday, 28th May, so as to give the members three days' vacation, last Monday, Memorial Day, being a legal holiday. The mercantile exchanges in that city—the Produce, Cotton, Coffee, etc.—also observed the same holidays, and we believe that in Philadelphia and Boston the same arrangement as above stated was made.

B. T., Cornwall.—The company has a Quebec charter, and is almost unknown in this part of Ontario. Write to the provincial secretary of Quebec.

### CROWN BANK OF CANADA.

On Wednesday of this week, the Crown Bank of Canada opened its office, 34 King St., West, Toronto. The first story of the front has been rebuilt in pink stone and a convenient entrance made. As one enters the building two things will strike him very forcibly, namely the symmetry of the arrangement and the pleasing effect of the wood-work and decorations. The wood-work, which is in dark oak, is produced by the Chas. Rogers & Sons Co., of Toronto, is dignified, without being too elaborate as is sometimes the case. The grille work and cages are the product of the Canada Foundry Co., and a feature of this work is that the cage doors instead of opening on hinges are made to slide on rollers on an inclined plane, so that they close automatically. Black iron predominates and a pleasing effect is produced, which will be heightened when the dark green cork matting is laid. An interesting feature of the office is the women's department. Immediately to the left on entering is the ladies' waiting room, which is intended to be furnished tastefully. The savings bank is directly next to this room, and a lady clerk will be installed there to wait upon the female patrons of the bank. The vault, which is the work of the J. & J. Taylor Safe Works, is at the rear of the counting house. The vault extends upward with nothing but the clear blue sky above, thus avoiding the possibility of its being damaged by falling walls in case of fire or other causes. Altogether, the office is a modern and convenient one, and well situated for business.

### HINTS TOWARDS SAFETY FROM FIRE.

It is significant to find so competent an architect as Mr. E. J. Lennox expressing the opinion that half of the fires which occur in the downtown districts result from the electric wiring being out of order. In order to avoid this state of affairs, he suggests the passing of a by-law which would compel these wires to be placed in iron insulated conduits, especially in the basements, where the rough handling of boxes and the constant rubbing against the wires tears the insulation off. Another improvement would be a water curtain at the back of all mercantile buildings, the water in which could be easily turned on and the rear of the buildings kept wet. The curtain only costs a few hundred dollars.

This last recommendation is emphasized by Mr. J. B.

Laidlaw, of the Norwich Union, in a letter to the Globe. Further suggestions from this gentleman are that all openings in a building looking towards adjacent premises without a clear space of 50 feet should be protected by fireproof shutters, the windows fitted with metal frames, or with wooden frames covered with metal, and metal sashes with wire glass inserted, and a water curtain, or pipe with open spraying nozzles at the top of each window. The water curtain on the west wall of the Brock building, he points out, prevented the flames from the Rolph, Smith Company entering the windows on this side even when the front of the warehouse was burning.

A fact of serious import is the extent to which elevator shafts endanger the safety of buildings which take fire. Any person, who has read the papers for the last five or ten years, must be familiar with the phrase, describing any interior fire: "When the flames reached the hoist, the wooden shaft enclosing it became a blazing flue, up which the flames rushed to every floor of the building." This might be obviated by placing automatic traps in elevator shafts, which would open after the elevator goes up or down, and close after it passed, while in addition the staircase should be enclosed in a tight partition with a door at the top or bottom. Better still, says Mr. Laidlaw, would be to place the elevator and staircase in a separate and protected compartment.

### LIFE ASSURANCE NOTES.

We learn that Mr. Jos. Lawson has secured an appointment as district manager at Guelph, for the Imperial Life Assurance Company of Canada. Mr. Lawson is well acquainted with Ontario insurance affairs, having been for some time general agent for the great West Life Insurance Company.

Mr. J. W. Mackenzie, chief agent for Canada of the Maryland Casualty Co., leaves to-morrow on a trip to the Eastern provinces. He expects to return about the 15th, and will immediately leave for the Coast, meeting Mr. James H. Stone, the auditor of the company, at Vancouver. The two gentlemen referred to will then work their way east again, calling upon agents, and in various ways strengthen the grip the company has in Canada.

The presentation of prizes to those members of the staff of the Canada Life Company, who had been most successful students in the educational course of the Insurance Institute of Toronto took place last week. Prizes in gold, furnished by officers of the company, were handed by Senator Cox to W. N. McIlwraith, of the Eastern Ontario branch office, and to C. C. Macklin and A. E. Cuthbertson, the two latter dividing the second and third prizes. Two members of the staff received special mention for the excellence of their work, one of them also receiving promotion.

We have frequently seen portraits of lady agents for insurance companies, and while some were good looking and some were not, this is hardly the point. Business is business, and a woman who really understands her business ought to be able to effect insurances easier than a man. Now we have the woman actuary. Fraulein Marie Loewy has been accepted by the Berlin Chamber of Commerce as an actuary, being the first of her sex in Germany who has filled such an honorable position. One thing is certain; that if this lady can condescend so far as to look into the household accounts, the tradesmen will have a bad time of it. There will be no tricks with those books!—The Review, May 13th.

The great duty of every man, whether he be a man in a profession with a fixed income, or a man in business with a non-fixed income, no matter how large his income, is to have regard to all the chances and contingencies of life, and to assure against his own death for the sake of those he may leave behind. And having made that provision, then the business man may go ahead, with more business enterprise or more risks than he would have any right to do if he had not made that provision. I feel sure that the attitude toward life insurance on the one hand, and the fullest use of all possible surplus capital after life insurance has been effected on