

ing. The number seems to us very small indeed, considering all the chances of losses by servants sent to post and fetch letters, by mis-deliveries to wrong addresses, which were not corrected, by post office robberies, fires and accidents entailing loss of letters. Indeed, the Post Office Department Report shows that its affairs are managed with great skill, as well as with all the economy consistent with efficiency and the growing necessities of the country; it proves also that in postal facilities, Canada is abreast of the times, all classes of her people being placed in easy contact with the rest of the world, and in all large cities amply provided with all the conveniences so valuable to a mercantile community.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Argus Insurance Chart, 1894, containing statistics of the business of the principal American and Foreign Fire and Casualty companies in the United States since 1885, and also a handy expiration register. Published by the Rollins Publishing Company, 161 Salle St., Chicago.

Bourne's Expense Ratios of Life offices doing business in Great Britain. These are shown for 83 companies, and as usual are calculated as a percentage on (1) the total premium income, (2) the renewal premium income after allowing 100 per cent. for new business; and (3) the new premiums after allowing 7½ per cent. for renewals. Price, 2s 6d per dozen.

Fire Insurance in Michigan for the nine years ended 1893, showing the amount of risks written, premiums received, losses incurred, and loss ratios for the several companies. Published by our contemporary, *The Indicator*, Detroit, Mich. Price, 25 cents.

Fire Insurance in Pennsylvania for the twenty-one years ended 1893, giving similar particulars for that State. Published by the *Insurance World*, Pittsburg, Pa. Price, 50 cents.

The Investigator Almanac and Fire Insurance Chart, containing a list of the American Fire Companies and their officers and statistics showing their financial condition and business transacted, and also loss and expense ratios. Published by our contemporary at Chicago. Price, 25 cents.

Pocket Life Chart of the principal Life Insurance Companies in the United States, giving the amounts of their new and existing business income, disbursements, assets and liabilities, surplus, and expense and other ratios. Published by the New York *Insurance Journal*.

The Pacific Underwriters' Chart of Life, Accident and Fidelity business in California for the five years ended 1893. Published by Robt. W. Neal, 320 California St., San Francisco.

"*Use and abuse of contracts*," a paper by Mr. E. W. Carpenter, read before the Fire Underwriters Association of the Pacific at their annual meeting in February. The subject, which is dealt with in a pithy, readable style, will be referred to in our next issue.

Insurance Department Reports for 1893 as follows:—New York, Part 2, and Connecticut, Part 2, dealing with Life and Casualty Assurance business; Maine, Part 1, Michigan, Part 1, Massachusetts, Part 1, Kentucky, Part 1, and Pennsylvania, Part 1, dealing with Fire and Marine business; for which the several Superintendents will please accept our thanks.

Life Agent's Codex, containing business hints and practical suggestions, which should be especially useful to beginners, and also a description of the various plans of assurance and the conditions of policies issued by thirty-five life companies, among which we note the Canada Life, the Sun Life and the Confederation Life of Canada. The book is well written in clear, concise language, and apart from its practical utility is to be commended for its common sense and the high principles and practices it inculcates. Published by the Spectator Company, N.Y.

Handy Guide to Premium Rates, applications and policies of forty-five American and three Canadian Life companies. This useful handbook is so well known to assurance agents as to need no introduction, and it is only necessary to say that the present edition has been thoroughly revised and added to. Published by the Spectator Company, N.Y. Price, \$2 bound in flexible leather.

Policy Values, by J. P. Bourne, A.I.A., a neatly bound book of twenty-six pages, in which are given the values of policies at 4 per cent. according to gross premiums and ages attained. Published by A. Trengrove, 26 Paternoster Row, London. Price, three shillings.

Bourne's Handy Assurance Directory, 1894, containing the usual carefully compiled and complete information respecting life companies in Great Britain for which "Bourne's" has been so long well known. Published by Wm. Schooling, F.R.A.S., Trafalgar Buildings, London, W.C. Price, 2s 6d in limp cloth, 3s 6d in red cloth.

The U.S. Tariff Bill, as reported to the Senate from the Finance Committee, March 20, 1894.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents.

TORONTO LETTER.

More about Toronto Civic Insurance.—An attempt made to sap the Fealty of Mr. Robert McLean—What might be, for him—More Blindness in connection with Fire Insurance.—J. H. Ewart.—An exploded boiler, and a moral.

DEAR EDITOR,—

Up to date the Toronto Corporation as represented by Alderman Lamb has not taken any steps, so far as I know, to issue the prospectus or scheme under which the city is to do our insurance for us. I presume the intention is to give the ratepayers of Toronto some details as to the proposed working of the plan for giving cheap protection to the citizens. It will surprise you to hear, you may even smile, when I tell you our own secretary, McLean, has been approached—been felt—as to the possibility of his services being secured to the city in the launching and management of this new municipal fad. Good and faithful Robert McLean, in the role of the wolf dwelling with the lamb (and such a visionary lamb, and such a practical "wolf"), would look like the dawn of the millennium, surely. The secretary of the Toronto Board felt quite indignant at the suggestion that he should sever his connection with the C.F.U.A. and T.B., and thus do violence to his teaching and traditions of the past. Still, he is a Scotchman, and sentimental feelings ought not to sway him unduly. He should look at it this way:—Salary from the city \$5,000 a year, with guaranteed engagement for six years. This would be a fair term, because the civic insurance is to be all on the three year plan, and at least two terms would be required to test the venture. Mr. McLean would escape the worry he now has in educating large property owners so that they may understand the reasonableness of their ratings, whether schedule or specific. His first year's duties would be his heaviest, as, after putting things in shape, the city tax gatherers and assessors would do the rest. As a salaried officer on above terms he could just have a bed of roses or heather to rest on for the remainder of his business life. A uniform rate of 300 per cent. for three years on saw mills and sheds, on factories and household furniture, would not be a severe strain on the manager. After all, if the bottom of the thing fell out before his six year engagement expired, he would just draw his pay yearly, and rest.

You have an article I see on "Blindness Insurance" in last number. Do you know, when that heading first caught my attention, I, for the instant, thought you had written a paragraph on this civic insurance scheme and chosen an appropriate title!

Mr. J. H. Ewart, whose work for the "Eastern Assurance Co.," as its general agent for Ontario during the past three years, was extensive and of good quality, has taken the National Assurance Co. with like territory and duties for that Company. He is, however, still looking after the interests of the "Eastern" pending their appointment of his successor.

I learn the Royal Electric Company in your city very generally insures against fire and against explosion of its steam boilers, but the explosion of a few days ago found the Company without insurance on the boiler that exploded. It was one of six, five only insured, and ill-luck took the uninsured one. Perhaps, if it had been insured, which implies prior inspection, it would not have exploded. The moral of this incident is, "always insure," and, when you do it, do it thoroughly; also, it is pleasant to draw a moral out of any Montreal insurance business.

Yours, ARIEL.

TORONTO, 28th May, 1894.