THE ARNOLD DECISION.

The judgment of Chief Justice Hunter of British Columbia, in the case of the insurance on the life of the late W. R. Arnold, managing director of the Dominion Trust Company, payment of which was resisted by the companies concerned chiefly on the ground of suicide, is very lengthy. The Chief Justice took the line that it had not been proved with reasonable certainty that Arnold did commit suicide. He added:—

"I will say that I think the companies are quite justified in resisting this claim for payment of these policies; that there was reasonable ground for defending the case, upon the theory of suicide, for there are a great many circumstances which until fully investigated would naturally suggest that that is what happened. And for this reason, I think the companies were justified, out of regard for other policyholders, in requiring that a judicial investigation should be had before they paid these claims. They were not only justified because they are trustees for the other policyholders, but also in the public interest. It certainly cannot be in the public interest that bogus insurance claims shall be paid without contest and without the matter being thoroughly thrashed out. It certainly is in the public interest to keep down the rates for insurance, and if large claims for insurance are obtained fraudulently with a view to ultimate suicide, and have to be paid by the companies, it is easy to see that the insurance rates would have to rise in order to allow the companies to do business. So that I say that both out of the fact that they are trustees for other policyholders, and from the public interest, I think the companies are justified in this case in resisting the claim until it was made the subject of judicial investigation."

As already intimated, the decision against the companies is being appealed.

ANOTHER UNLICENSED INSURANCE DODGE—GERMAN TOO.

Mr. F. Bartels, the well-known St. Hyacinthe insurance agent, sends us a letter addressed to one of his clients by the W. P. Doremus Co., Underwriters Building, William Street, New York, intimating that "with the facilities of the New York Fire insurance market we are in a position to secure insurance for your account at a considerable saving from the local tariff rates."

Recipients of this philanthropic offer, before placing it in the waste-paper basket, might enquire from the Doremus Company the names of the companies with which insurance would be placed and the prospects of getting a *prompt* settlement of a hundred cents on the dollar in the event of loss. By the way, Doremus is a good old German name.

WAR INSURANCE ON CANADIAN TROOPS.

The Metropolitan Life and the Aetna Life have written policies on the lives of Canadian soldiers to the amount of about $14,000,000 since the beginning of the war, it is stated in New York. All told, about 16,000 men in the various Canadian contingents have been insured by the two companies before leaving for the fighting lines.

Payments in death benefits to the families of Canadian volunteers have been about as follows to date: Metropolitan Life, $552,000; Aetna Life, $37,500. The Metropolitan took risks ranging from $500 to $1,000 on 11,513 men in various regiments to a total amount of $10,811,000. The Aetna insured about 4,500 soldiers for $3,000,000.

An approximate schedule of the Metropolitan's insurances by districts is as follows:—

Districts.	Lives.	Insurance.
Barrie	12	$ 12,500
Berlin	394	312,500
Hamilton	647	463,000
Kingston	62	62,000
Lachine	27	13,500
London	705	561,000
Quebec	282	186,500
Ottawa	23	23,000
Peterboro	70	70,000
St. Catharines	278	193,500
Saginaw	7	3,500
Toronto	8,810	8,807,000
Windsor	196	114,000
Total	11,513	$10,811,500

The Bank of England continue its official rate of discount at 5 per cent.