

SOCIETY NOTES AND ITEMS.

Lightning Insurance has been legalized in New Jersey.

The Scottish Metropolitan has been reinsured in the Caledonian.

The Fire losses in the United States up to the end of March this year are said to aggregate \$85,000,000.

Mr. J. Roland Brown has been appointed Inspector of the British Empire Life Insurance Company for Eastern Ontario.

The loss ratio of the London Assurance Corporation for the years 1880, 1881 and 1882 have been 45, 49 and 61 respectively.

London Eng., pays annually about \$35,000,000 in premiums for Fire Insurance. New York has paid on an average about \$6,000,000 per annum for the past ten years.

There was a big fire in Paternoster Row, London, Eng., on the 16th inst., entailing heavy loss and the destruction of valuable property. The damage is estimated at \$2,500,000.

The New York Bulletin's fire record for March shows a loss of \$5,000,000 by 185 fires. The total loss by fire is estimated at \$7,250,000. In March, 1882, the loss was \$1,000,000 less.

The following private Bill passed the House: An Act to empower the National Insurance Company to wind up its affairs and to relinquish its charter, and to provide for the dissolution of said Company.

Mr. E. A. Lilly, who has been for several years in the Royal Insurance Company in this city, has been appointed manager of the Guardian Assurance Company, Montreal, in place of Mr. Kirby, who resigned his position in that Company.

The Grand Jury of Quebec claim it to be the bounden duty of the municipal authorities to take immediate action for a better supply of water, and thus remove the excuse made by insurance companies for charging exorbitant rates of premiums.

The Montreal Board of Fire Underwriters have asked the City Council to take such steps for the protection of life and property as will ensure the proper construction and maintenance of all electric wires and apparatus for illuminating purposes in this city.

We commend to the notice of our readers "An Explanatory Circular from the Inspector," J. Howard Hunter, Esq., referring to the Ontario Insurance Act, 1883, which will be found on another page. It is of great interest and epitomises the provisions of said Act.

We have again to record heavy losses by fire in Montreal for the month of March. The total amount of property destroyed being \$148,895 and the net losses to the Insurance Companies \$38,841, of which sum the loss on the Williams Sewing Machine factory is \$84,841.

A Contest over Life Assurance.—An order was made on the 3rd inst. by Mr. Justice Proudfoot for the payment into Court by the Equitable Life Insurance Company of the sum of \$25,000, the amount of policy on the life of the late Mr. Frank Shanly. This amount is claimed by Mrs. Shanly, whose right is contested by the Old Consolidated Bank.

The Aetna Life has obtained permission to capitalize the Surplus Assets in its stock department to the extent of \$2,000,000. The effect will be to add to the prestige of that company before the public. The assets were in no way connected with the rights of mutual holders, who, while contributing nothing to the fund, will share in the advantage of the increase of capital.

Mr. Charles D. Corv, now residing in St. John, New Brunswick, where he supervises the business in the Maritime Provinces of the British America Assurance Company and the Citizens Insurance Company, is now visiting the various cities and towns in the Province of Quebec on behalf of the first-named Company. The idea is to make a systematic report, so as to decide where to extend their business and where to curtail it.

An Irish Bull.—At last we have a first-class Insurance Company opened up in Canada with a capital which really should meet the demands of the most exacting insurer. The National Assurance Company of Ireland opens out this month, and the *Montreal Witness* credits it with a capital of one thousand million pounds sterling. This of course may be a misprint, but we always knew that the National of Ireland was a good company, and we do not suppose that the Chief Agents would make such a bull as this knowingly.

The New Jersey (fire) Insurance Co., of Newark, has retired from business and reinsured its risks with the German American of this city. The decedent, though about fifty years of age, was but a small affair, with only \$90,000 of paid-up capital, and total assets of \$150,000. It had a cross-grained secretary, who seemed to resent the coming in of a stranger to the office as an unwarrantable intrusion; and, though the death might have occurred had a more polite man been in his place, it would not now be such a pleasure to look upon the corpse.—*N.Y. Chronicle*.

Pembroke, Ont., have at last decided to purchase a steam fire engine and to organize and equip a hook and ladder company. Considering the non-existence of any fire appliances in Pembroke, and recent experiences as to fires, it is rather surprising that the Insurance Companies do any business there. On the 7th of last month there were some ten buildings and out-offices burned, and according to the press report there were some eighteen stores and dwellings burned on the 14th inst. Of course the usual scenes, familiar to Pembroke, of attempting to subdue the fires with pails of water, wet blankets, etc., were resorted to. We shall expect the Pembroke folks will bestir themselves when they find all the Insurance Companies withdraw from taking risks there altogether.

At a meeting of the Quebec City Council, held on the 7th inst., the question of the extortionate rates of insurance imposed upon Quebec real estate was discussed, on a motion by Ald. Hearn to the following effect:—That by the recent changes made in the distribution of the water supply of this city, together with the present satisfactory condition of the reservoirs, the improvements lately made in the different branches of the fire organization, and the immense decrease that has taken place within the last two years in the number of wooden buildings in the city, the risk of conflagration, particularly of an extensive character, is as little in Quebec as in any city of the Dominion; that the Fire Committee be requested to take such action as it may deem best to bring before the Quebec Fire Assurance Company and the agents of the different fire insurance companies doing business in Quebec, the above well-founded statement, and to invite such gentlemen to any test they may suggest in order to satisfy themselves of the great improvements recently effected for the suppression of fire by this corporation.