

tion. Those who charge His Majesty with interfering beyond precedent with Cabinet building should read a little of the political history of England where they would find a number of precedents for the monarch's activity as the master-spirit in this work. We hope the report is true that King Edward insists upon a thorough reform of the War Office.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

THE BELL TELEPHONE CO. will pay a 2 per cent. dividend on 15th October next.

THE NORTH AMERICAN ACCIDENT CO. proposes opening out in Great Britain.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 17th Sept., 1903—Clearings, \$1,979,427; corresponding week last year, 2,131,917.

THE MOLSONS BANK will pay a dividend at rate of 4½ per cent. for past half-year, on 1st October next. The annual meeting will be held on 19th October.

ÆTNA INSURANCE COMPANY'S new building.—The head office building of the Ætina, Hartford, was commenced last week by the President, Mr. W. P. Clark, laying the first two bricks.

A WATERY MATCH.—Phosphorous matches being prohibited in Sweden, a match has been invented that lights on a wet surface. What its special danger is will be discovered some day.

ALMOST LIKE A FAIRY TALE.—A fire at Springfield, Mo., was caused by the gas from a leak in a gas pipe catching fire near to a gas meter; this was knocked over, and fell against a water meter which broke and let out a stream of water that put out the fire!

A CHANCE FOR A BIG PRIZE.—The American Grape Acid Association, San Francisco, is offering a reward of \$25,000 to the discoverer of "a process to utilize grapes for grape acid." The acid is the base of materials for which there is an enormous demand everywhere, such as tartaric acid and cream of tartar.

LOOKING A LONG WAY AHEAD.—Any underwriters who look into the future believe that the tendency of the times will be for established fire companies of unquestionable financial responsibility to increase their line considerably. This may not come for ten years or more, but it seems the eventual outcome of existing movements. So says the "Western Underwriter."

INCREASE OF BRAIN DISORDERS.—The State Board of Health, Massachusetts, reports that the mortality from brain disorders is nearly as great as from consumption. The "strenuous life" seems to be over straining the brain of this generation. Few persons realize that the brain is as much a part of the body as the lungs or stomach.

THE TRAVELLERS is arranging to hold a convention at Hartford, shortly, at which over one hundred delegates

will be present from all parts of the country.

The Travellers is reported to have adopted a plan of daily reports by its agents in place of the monthly plan. The company is thus enabled to know at all times just what its bank balances are in the various cities of the country.

MESSRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH & Co., patent solicitors, Canada Life Building, furnish us with the following weekly list of patents granted to Canadians in the United States of America. Any further information may be readily obtained from them direct. **AMERICAN PATENTS**—G. B. Baby, electric fuse. S. W. Bradley, casting-machine. F. F. Dow, burner. F. M. Gaudet, target for miniature ranges. T. E. McCollum, car-brake. A. C. Rioux, mower-bar. Edith M. Sharpe, buckle. F. S. Smith, broom-clasp. R. R. Wiley, transformer.

TROUBLE WITH WILD CATS.—The proprietor of an hotel at Barbados, Wis., U. S., had his house burnt, that was insured for \$1,500, in the Great Britain Insurance Corporation and the Independent Fire Underwriters. The former has a wild-cat reputation, and the other is not licensed to operate in Wisconsin. They do not *refuse* to pay, but quietly ignore the claim. Fancy a wild-cat taking the title "Great Britain Insurance Corporation"!

MANAGEMENT OF THE CONGRESS CRITICIZED.—A number of our contemporaries are complaining that the "Insurance Press" was not allowed opportunities for reporting the proceedings at the recent Actuarial Congress. From what reports we have seen in the principal New York papers, it was evidently impracticable to give full reports of the Congress, as so large a portion of the time was occupied by reading papers. Discussions also of technical subjects are difficult to report with the accuracy needed to do the speakers justice. Besides these considerations there was no need for the proceedings to be rushed into print like those of a political meeting, so that the managers of the Congress do not seem justly chargeable with discourtesy to the Press.

UNGALLANT, BUT PROBABLY TRUE.—"Female lives are 10.6 per cent. better risks than male lives," says the Chicago Health Department. "Why don't insurance agents take advantage of this fact?" If a woman is willing to take out insurance there is a strong probability that she knows that her health is in danger. If a man who knew that his health was in danger should apply for insurance his conscience would hurt him. A woman's conscience, however, is seldom as vigorous as her intuition. Her intuition is the proud guiding star of her existence. And when her intuition begins to operate in a field which is unfamiliar to her as insurance, its mandates are irresistible. The conclusion seems to be, therefore, that in general the women who don't get insured are good risks and the women who do get insured are bad risks.—"Chicago Tribune."

THE "REVIEW," LONDON, alluding to above scheme, says: "On this side we really want a rest from these Old Maids, but if they still keep travelling round, they should come and camp in this office and let us see what they look like."

A CURIOUS KIND OF INSURANCE is reported to have been stated in Denmark. By paying down £14 at birth of a daughter her parents insure for her an annuity of £5 if she should not be married at thirty, or £10 at forty, or £12 at fifty, and so on. If she, however, married before her thirtieth year, the whole £14 is paid over to her.

There are a great many visionary schemes palmed off in the name of insurance, and the above is probably one.