

QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1475.—S. A. G., Oshawa.—Mexican Central Common can only be looked upon as a speculation, but the financial position of the road is improving and the stock is considered likely to gradually improve in value. The company is exercising the option it had to purchase the stock of the Mexican Construction Company.

1476.—H. A. L., Woodstock, N.B.—The capital of the West India Electric Company is \$800,000 fully paid up and there is a 5 p.c. bond issue of \$600,000. The net earnings for the year ending 31st December, 1904, were \$28,131.18 after paying bond interest and all operating and fixed charges.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

JOURNAL OF THE INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES, JULY, 1905.—This number contains papers as follows: "Bonuses in Model Office Valuations and their relations to Reserves," by James Buchanan, D.Sc., F.I.A., F.F.A., of the Scottish Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society. This paper is accompanied by most elaborate tables which the author thinks "will be found useful in enabling an actuary to estimate the effect of a change of valuation basis on future as well as on present surplus." He remarked, "If a life office gave too large a share of surplus to any particular class of policy, was it not likely to do the bulk of its business at those rates which were less profitable to itself and ultimately to all concerned," a course which the paper and tables would be helpful in avoiding.

A second paper of much interest is, "On the importance and Practicability of a Standard Classification of Impaired Lives," by S. W. Carruthers, M.D., medical officer of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. The author means by "Standard Classification of Impaired Lives" a system by which every office would be enabled to "pigeon-hole," so to speak, lives with similar impairments in uniformly labelled pigeon-holes, so that at any time a collective investigation could readily be made of the contents of one or more of these pigeon-holes, with a certainty that the material therein was at least sufficiently homogeneous to furnish a mortality experience of practical value."

The author bases his deductions on the observation of 4,000 cases. The data given in the paper are most interesting and suggestive. This number contains a report of the Nelson Tea Co., case

OHIO INSURANCE DEPARTMENT. REPORT FOR 1904.—Life companies and assessment associations. Of the latter 4 retired last year in Ohio. The aggregate premiums received in Ohio last year were \$24,332,533, losses incurred, \$8,050,625.

STATE OF WASHINGTON, PRELIMINARY INSURANCE REPORT, 1904.—The American fire companies' net premiums were \$1,955,774 and losses paid, \$680,988; the foreign companies' premiums, \$1,332,048, and losses \$507,263. The legal reserve life companies received in premiums last year \$2,500,309 and the assessment companies, \$105,718, the smallness of the latter figure is creditable to the good sense of the Washingtonians.

CANADIAN FORESTRY JOURNAL, JULY, 1905.—This publication is devoted to the interests of Forestry in Canada, the importance of which is not sufficiently appreciated. The Forestry Convention to be held in January next, will be presided over by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, supported by Mr. R. L. Borden, M.P., and the Governor-General has expressed much interest in its objects.

OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE FOR CANADA, 1905.—This work contains the chief regulations of the Post Office, rates of postage, a list of post offices in Canada with the names of postmasters, the rules of the Post Office Savings Banks, Money Order offices and other information.

THE INSURANCE LAW JOURNAL, AUGUST, 1905.—This very valuable publication contains full reports of several important cases recently decided in courts of law. One gives the decision of the Kentucky Appeal Court on the question as to what is meant by the word "noon" in a fire insurance policy. The pith of the lengthy judgment is found in these words, "The word 'noon' is undergoing a change in meaning. It came by usage to represent mid-day or 12 o'clock solar time, which was deemed mid-day for so many years. In recent years it represents now mid-day, not necessarily as shown by 'sun time,' but by the standard in use, whatever it is. Both terms 'noon' and '10 o'clock a.m.' are used to express practical approximations, and neither refers necessarily to the actual fact."

DEFECTIVE FIRE PROTECTION IN ENGLAND.—A Parliamentary Report shows that a very large proportion of the smaller towns in England are wholly without fire protection. In the West Riding of Yorkshire, 50 per cent. of the Urban Councils have no brigade, a condition which prevails all over Great Britain and Ireland in small towns.