managers and fire insurance agents, under the proposed application of a more strict prohibitive non-intercourse rule as between tariff and non-tariff companies. I do not think that the fire insurance people are troubling themselves much about the Prohibition question. For the most part they belong to that large class of persons existent in every community, who, while not perhaps total abstainers, are yet on the very moderate side. Many of these are so extremely moderate and conservative that they never think of "treating back" on the spot, that is to say, whilst a few never treat back. Now it is, I believe, generally conceded that the custom of treating as we know it and practice it is productive of more evil, especially amongst the younger men, than any other one phase of the drinking habits of the community. Consequently, much is to be said from a moral point of view, and from a temperance point of view also, in favour of the man who accepts a treat and delays until a later day the asking of his friend to accept the return favour. An analysis of our several motives and methods of doing many social things, with which we are all familiar but seldom stop to criticise, might yield some curious results and deductions.

The non-intercourse rule, another sort of prohibition, is coming to the front again, and is likely to be strictly interpreted, applied and insisted on with all the power and authority of the C.F.U.A. or else there will be a total abandonment of the whole thing once and for all. It is admittedly a difficult matter to handle, and there is much to be said on both sides of the question. As a measure, some few years ago it might have been more easy to enforce; but changed circumstances, and the complexity of certain insurance interests, tend to make difficult, if not impossible, a perfect observance of the rule. Any compromise to meet an individual case, any exceptions made in favour of this or that party, however reasonable in themselves, would all weaken and tend to spoil the whole rule. To be satisfactory and fair all round there must be no evasions of the obligation winked at. The companies have an undoubted right to say upon what terms and in what way their business is to be conducted and their interests protected. Likewise the agents have their right to require that due consideration be given to their position and their interests; and so it is just these varying and varied features in each agent's particular case that makes it so difficult for the C.F.U.A. people to harmonize matters, do equal justice, retain their good agents and preserve the rule.

Agitation in a mild way is appearing amongst some of the Toronto Fire Underwriters with the object of having rates on manufacturers' risks now exposed to, or, by other like hazards, still further advanced. This movement, no doubt, owes its inception to the recent fires, those mentioned above, and one at the Fensom Elevator Works, in this city. I should think it would be well to rest easy on further rate advancing, at least in Toronto. Taking things all round, enough has been done for the present. Any more lifting up in price would surely tend to annoy the public of this city, and with reason. The present rating system, as developed and being developed by the Secretary of the Toronto Board along the sanctioned lines laid down for him, should well suffice. Nothing short of another large conflagration, which, we hope, is a very remote possibility, should be allowed to cause any disturbance of the present scale of rates for this city.

Yours,

ARIEL.

Toronto, 24th February, 1902.

PERSONALS.

MR. M. STOKES O'CALLAGHAN has been appointed manager in Ireland for the Sun Life of Canada. On leaving the London agency he was the recipient of a handsome present from the staff.

MR. CHARLES F. SISE, president of the Bell Tele-Company, which is now composed of the following: Board of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, which is no wcomposed of the following: Messrs. A. Macnider, chairman, Henri Barbeau, Hon. Senator Drummond, Chas. F. Sise. The Company is to be congratulated upon having such a representative Board.

The North British is about to reconstruct and rebuild its present premises, two more stories will be added, and the building will be made absolutely fireproof. The Company has recently erected a handsome building in Toronto. Mr. Randall Davidson is manager of the Company for Canada.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 20th February, 1902, Clearings, $1,669,520. Balances, $457,938.

A GASOLINE TANK exploded on 24th inst. at the "Advocate" office, Mitchell, Ont., damage $2,000, covered to extent of $1,600 in the Economical of Berlin.

A NORTERN ALBERTA oatfield is depicted in "The Commercial," which is said to have yielded 100 bushels to the acre. The trouble is that heavy crops of oats are not marketable at a profit owing to transportation charges.

THE MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY CO.'S statement for January shows for the past 4 months increases over same period 1901, as follows: In earnings $35,283; in operating expenses, $14,224; in fixed charges, $22,590; the net result being a decrease of $1,531 in the surplus for period since 1st Oct., 1991. The net earnings in month of January, 1902, were $5,921 more than January, 1901.

THE LIGHT ON THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, New York, has been discontinued. When inaugurated this light was spoken of by eminent orators as, "a symbol of America enlightening the world." What does putting the light out mean? Is the world too enlightened to need any illumination from the United States?

THE FOREIGN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES in Philadelphia received premiums in second half of 1901 as follows:

Atlas	$10,265	N. British & Mer.	37,467
British America	13,669	Northern	16,199
Caledonian	12,769	Norwich Union	14,202
Commercial Union	23,502	Phœnix	22,556
Imperial	9,290	Royal	62,224
Liv. & Lon & G.	65,298	Scottish Union	40,818
London	10,082	Sun	19,292
London & Lan.	14,921	Union	8,203
Manchester	12,530	Western	13,016
National	9,405		