

A correspondent of the *Echo*, of London, has received information, in reply to his inquiries, from sixty British life companies, showing that a majority of them charge an extra premium for insurance on the lives of publicans, some companies refusing to insure them at all.

The trial is now in progress at St. John, N.B., of C. B. Welton, Dr. Randall and Rev. Sydney Welton in the second case of graveyard insurance, this time on the life of one Daniel Morrison at Hillsboro, the particulars of which we some time ago published. The amount realized was \$7,500, the Mutual Reserve Fund, the Union Mutual Life and the Golden Rule Alliance having paid respectively \$5,000, \$2,000 and \$1,500. This seems to have been even worse than the Reid case, for complicity in which C. B. Welton and Dr. Randall were recently convicted.

The Canada Life announces to its agents that a modification of the previous practice of the company, which was averse to the taking of applicants under 20 years of age, has been decided upon: and that hereafter those from 16 next birthday upwards will be taken, where the consent of the father is given and noted upon the application, and where agents are able to report favorably upon the life and habits of the applicant, and that the surroundings are such as to offer a reasonable guarantee of future good health and habits. This is a progressive move. We are pleased to learn that the Canada Life is having a good year's business.

Through the negligence of the Milwaukee & Northern Railway a large loss by fire was sustained some time ago by the Jefferson Ice Company. Suit was brought to recover, and the court decided in favor of the railroad company. The Supreme Court of Wisconsin on appeal has now reversed the decision, holding the railroad responsible. About two years ago the Phenix of New York, the Queen, and the Liverpool & London & Globe paid losses at Menasha, Wis., of \$21,000 on property burned by the negligence of the railroad company. Under this Supreme Court decision they can now recover from the railroad.

The New York Life has made a good investment in the purchase of the entire block of \$300,000 of first mortgage bonds of the Montreal Board of Trade to yield  $4\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The bonds have thirty years to run and are first class. The deal was made through R. Wilson Smith acting for the Board of Trade, and Mr. David Burke, the Dominion manager of the New York Life. This \$300,000 is to be held in trust by Canadian trustees for the protection of policyholders in Canada, in accordance with the Dominion insurance act, in addition to \$750,000 already so held. Besides this amount, the company has on deposit with the Dominion Government \$1,273,000, making a total of \$2,323,000 for the security of Canadian policyholders.

The insurance business has its comedies as well as its tragedies. The much-heralded British Union insurance company has been playing in the former role. Announced more than a year ago as in process of formation to write insurance of several kinds under one policy, it has been kept before the British public constantly since: the statement having some time ago been made that its capital of £1,000,000 had all been subscribed, and the company was only waiting to find a great-headed man for manager, before going in for business. It now appears that only some £16,000 was really subscribed by the public, and at a meeting of the directors the other day it was decided to call the shareholders together and end that which really never had a beginning.

A decision by the Court of Appeals of Indiana holds that insurance on a barn "and contents" will not cover horses in a yard when killed by lightning, and that a statement by an agent of the insurance company, that the clause in the policy will cover such loss, is a representation of law, not of fact, and not binding on the company.

It is worthy of note that workmen in tanneries are said to have entirely escaped the Cholera in Russia during the sweeping epidemic. The sour liquors used in the tanning process are inimical to the life of the disease germ. The free use of sour tan bark on the floors of dwellings and hospitals is said to have worked admirably so far.

It is interesting to note that the death rate of the life companies reporting to the New York insurance department for the fifteen years past has been practically uniform. The first five of the fifteen years shows the death claims to have been \$14.02 per \$1,000 of mean insurance in force; the second five years \$14.08; and the last five years \$13.50, according to figures appearing in the *Insurance Age*.

#### PERSONAL MENTION.

MR. J. H. EWART, general agent at Toronto, of the Eastern was in Montreal last week.

MR. JOHN KENNEDY manager of the Fire Insurance Association has returned from British Columbia and the Northwest Territories.

MR. HARRISON DAVIS AND SIR JULIUS VOGEL have been appointed joint district managers in London for the New York Life.

MESSRS. COX & DAVIS of Peterboro have purchased the insurance business of Mr. F. Browncombe of that place, embracing the agency of several leading companies.

MR. JAMES YEREANCE, president of the Alliance Fire Association of New York until its recent retirement, has been appointed manager of the New York metropolitan district for the Equitable Life.

MR. A. C. BAYNE, formerly secretary, has been elected vice-president of the Ætna Fire, and Mr. J. F. Dudley succeeds him as secretary, with Messrs. W. H. King and E. O. Weeks as assistant secretaries.

MR. F. M. COLE of this city, for some time past connected with the Commercial Union, has now arranged to do business as an insurance broker, but will also represent the above company as special agent.

MR. FRANCIS LAING, F.I.A., for many years in the service of the company, has been appointed actuary of the Northern Assurance Company to succeed Mr. Thos. H. Cooke, resigned on account of failing health.

MR. S. W. HICKS, well known in business circles in this city, has been appointed manager of the Montreal District for the Provident Savings Life by Dominion Manager Matson. We wish Mr. Hicks abundant success in his work.

MR. IRA CORNWALL of St. John, whose appointment as general agent for New Brunswick by the Sun Insurance Office we recently chronicled, has also been placed in charge of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island by the same company.