CONVERTS TO STOCK COMPANY INSURANCE.

An important list of 65 industrial corporations in the United States which between July 1, 1914, and March 1, 1915, have transferred their insurance from the factory mutuals to the stock companies co-operating through the Factory Insurance Association is published by the Boston Standard. The total amount of insurance represented by these 65 concerns is $62,693,500. Commenting editorially upon this list, our contemporary writes:—"The list shows that the advantages of the definite cost and undoubted security of stock company insurance are regarded by the business men who have made the transfer as outweighing the advantage offered by factory mutual insurance of a possible saving in cost. No one disputes the good work done by the factory mutuals in encouraging superior building construction and the installation of fire prevention devices. But this does not make their insurance, even though it should cost a little less, preferable to that of the stock companies, for there is no certainty that it will cost less and there is the possibility that it may cost much more. The Salem fire demonstrated that the business of the mutuals is not exempt, as it has so often been claimed to be, from the conflagration hazard. Granting all that can possibly be said as to the exceptional nature of the circumstances under which the Naumkeag mills were destroyed, the fact of their destruction remains, and business men carrying factory mutual insurance must naturally ask themselves: How much do the mutuals stand to lose upon other risks exposed to a conflagration hazard far greater? And, so far as they are concerned, the question remains unanswered. They can only guess. But they have learned that the mutuals stand to lose an enormous sum of money on a single risk, and when the chance the mutuals are thus taking is compared with the underwriting conservatism, larger resources and wide distribution of business of the stock companies, the comparison is all in favor of the latter. When, therefore, the difference, if any, in cost is likely to be small, there is no reason for surprise that shrewd business men should prefer stock company insurance."

FALLEN ON THE FIELD OF HONOUR.

The Canadian head office at Montreal of the Royal Insurance Company has this week received cabled intimation of the death in action in France, of the younger son of Mr. George Chappell, the Royal's general manager. THE CHRONICLE desires to associate itself with the respectful sympathy tendered to Mr. Chappell in his bereavement by those associated with the Royal Insurance Company throughout the Dominion, and by others who have had the privilege of meeting Mr. Chappell on his official visits to Canada. Mingled with that sympathy is sober pride that a chief honoured and esteemed by his staff throughout the world, has given of his best so freely in the cause of freedom, and that the son has proved so worthy of his father and of England.

The New York Stock Exchange has abolished minimum prices, established in December last, trading thus being restored to an absolutely normal basis. In most cases prices are far above the minimum levels, and it is thought that financial affairs have so improved as to remove the danger existing at the time of the reopening of the Exchange.

MANUFACTURERS' LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

One of the most important appointments chronicled for some years in life insurance circles, is that of Mr. M. R. Gooderham, as managing director of the Manufacturers' Life, one of the largest Canadian life companies. This gentleman is well known as the youngest son of the late Mr. George Gooderham, one of the founders of the Company, and its president for ten years. He is also a brother of Mr. W. G. Gooderham, who is now president of the Manufacturers' Life.

The new managing director has been very actively associated with the Company for the past seven or eignt years, the greater part of the time as its first vice-president. He is very popular in business circles in the Queen City, and among the legal profession, of which he is a member, and will, no doubt, assume the great responsibilities which his new office entails, with every confidence.

The Manufacturers' has fortunately been excellently equipped in its other important executive offices for some years. The following promotions are now announced:—

Mr. Robert Junkin, who has been assistant manager for thirteen years, has been appointed manager of agencies. This gentleman's ability as an organizer combined with his popularity with the agency force and life underwriters generally in Canada will at once mark the wisdom of the directors' action in this connection.

Mr. J. B. McKechnie, actuary of the Company, is appointed assistant manager and actuary. Mr. McKechnie joined the actuarial department of the Company in 1903. He was promoted to the position of assistant actuary in 1907, and to that of actuary in March, 1909. Mr. McKechnie is a fellow of both the Actuarial Society of America and the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain.

The popular Secretary of the Company, Mr. L. A. Winter, will continue to fill the onerous duties of his office with his usual ability and marked deplomacy.

It is confidently expected that under the new executive officers the Manufacturers' will continue on its path of prosperity.

STATE FIRE INSURANCE: A POOR RECORD.

New Zealand is frequently a prize exhibit of the advocates of state insurance, possibly, it is suggested, because it is so far away that their mis-statements as to its success cannot be easily discovered. Official figures are now at hand showing that state fire insurance has not been much of a success in New Zealand, as the department collected only $265,000 of $2,039,000 of premiums in the country. The average rate has increased ever since the state entered the business, going from $3.12 per capita in 1902 to $3.50 in 1912, while the per capita loss by fire for the past three years has been $2.54, which is even higher than on this continent. Much of this condition is attributed to lax methods of the governmental office in handling and paying losses, as usual, largely due to political influence, and to the failure of the government to inspect risks until recently. It is not without interest that where governmental interference with insurance has been most pronounced, in America and New Zealand, the fire waste is greatest.