

ably to improve the service, to economise expenditures, to increase the area of postal deliveries, to bring the service into harmony with the speedy methods of modern business life, in a word, to enlarge the efficiency and popularize the postal service of this country. His official record will have the reduction of the postage to the old land as one of its features.

He had entered upon an effort to bring the telegraph and telephone services into the hands of the Government. His political opponents declare that he resigned because this large scheme was opposed by his ministerial colleagues. Though not specifically denied, Sir Wilfrid Laurier declared at a parting dinner given to Sir William that there was no disagreement between them, and that the only reason for their parting was the necessity of his friend taking life more easily than is possible for the head of a Government department. We may be allowed to wish Chief Justice Mulock entire relief from his physical trouble and many years of usefulness in his new position.

A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE IN CONNECTION WITH FIRE LOSSES.—One of our fire offices has had an experience in connection with the payment of a claim arising from a fire in a large city in Ontario. A merchant in that city who was a policy-holder in one of our best known fire offices, had a fire which caused loss and damage to a considerable extent. The loss was appraised at \$5,000, for which amount a cheque was remitted by the company. The merchant subsequently found on examining and re-arranging his goods that they were not damaged to the extent estimated, he, therefore, promptly returned the cheque to the company, stating that he found that his actual loss only amounted to \$1,500. The manager could not have been more startled by an electric shock than he was on receipt of this communication, his opinion of the character of that merchant he found difficult to express in sufficiently eulogistic and appropriate language. The action of this merchant is most commendable, it is well worthy of being followed, for there must be a large number of cases, in spite of any care an adjuster may take, where over-payments are made.

FRANCE AND VENEZUELA.—The Venezuelan Government is likely to have a lesson read to them by France, the drift of which they will find no difficulty in interpreting. An ultimatum will be delivered in a few days, the demands of which will have to be satisfied or a bombardment will take place of a Venezuelan port, or seizure of the navy of that Republic. The intentions of France are stated to have been approved by the United States so no such complications will arise as those which occurred when Great Britain and Germany adopted the same course as is being now taken by France.

LONDON'S NEW STREET.—King Edward and the Queen opened a new thoroughfare in London on 18th inst., which opens a direct road from the Strand to Holborn. The work on this street has cost \$30,000,000. It has cleared away one of the worst districts in the metropolis. Trolley cars run under this new street, which promises to be the most imposing in London, being three-fourths of a mile long and 100 feet wide. It does for that city what Mr. Chamberlain's street improvement did for Birmingham.

THE ROCHESTER GERMAN INSURANCE CO. has made arrangements to enter the Canadian field. This company was established over thirty-three years ago. Its total net assets exceed \$1,600,000. It has a net surplus over capital and all liabilities of \$421,416. Its net premium income, after deducting reinsurances, etc., last year exceeded \$1,100,000. The Rochester German is a well and conservatively managed insurance office, and enters the Dominion under favourable auspices. Mr. Walter Kavanagh has been appointed Chief Agent and Attorney. Mr. Kavanagh is also Chief Agent for the Scottish Union and National and the German American, for which companies he has transacted a profitable business. His connection with the Scottish Union dates back many years, while he was appointed Chief Agent of the German American when it entered the Dominion.

MONTREAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE.—As referred to elsewhere the first meeting of the Institute for the current session was held on Tuesday last, when a very excellent address was presented by its worthy President, Mr. Sargeant P. Stearns. This Institute is of considerable importance to the insurance fraternity, and is certainly worthy of the active sympathy and support of all the companies. It is capable of being made one of great value, not only to the members, but to the insurance business generally from a social, educational, and business point of view. We are afraid that its opportunities and privileges are not thoroughly appreciated, certainly not in the same degree as they are in the sister institutes in Toronto, Great Britain, and elsewhere.

THE LIGHT QUESTION AGAIN.—We have in recent issues devoted considerable space to this important problem. Recently a motion has been prepared by Alderman Ekers which is well worthy of attention, for while it might be carried into effect probably to better advantage on some different lines, still, the general principles on which it is based are businesslike. THE CHRONICLE has always advocated the principle that the city should participate in the profits derived from the privileges granted to Industrial enterprises. In this connection it is desirable that the City should have a voice in the affairs