

A very powerful organization has been formed in Chicago, with Mr. Lyman J. Gage, the leading banker in that city, as president, the object of which is to secure legislation by which the local Police force and all city departments will be placed under the control of a Civil Service Board, a plan which has been found to work well in Massachusetts. There is manifestly need of some reform in municipal, local self-government when at this time some six committees are at work on this continent investigating police management and other matters of civic concern.

Owing to recent serious fires in Winnipeg, an advance of 25 per cent. in the rates applying to all risks except those schedule rated has been put into force until such time as the fire appliances and system of water works is brought to an efficient state.

The City authorities have proposed adding a new steamer and an aerial ladder if the advance is taken off, but they say nothing about the water works, and for a city the size and importance of Winnipeg, a good system of water works is absolutely necessary to afford proper fire protection.

"Average Condition" is the term given to a clause in the policies covering farm risks in Scotland. Under it the insurance must be to extent of three-fourths of the value of what is covered. If the insurance has been effected for less than that proportion, the farmer will have to bear himself a share of the loss in the same proportion as the insured sum bears to the actual value of the property at the time of fire. This provision, though equitable, will be found not easy at times to be enforced, as fires, especially fires on farms, frequently leave no trace of what extent of property was destroyed, or of its condition before the fire.

A Syndicate of New York bankers secured the whole of the new \$50,000,000 loan, at 117.07; "all or none" were their terms. It is expected that the gold deposited on account of these bonds will send up the gold reserve to \$117,000,000, which is a higher point than it has reached since early in 1892. The specie will be drawn from banks in New York, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Already this drain of gold has had a stiffening effect on the money market, and some sales of the new bonds have been made at an advance. The next point is, how can the Treasury keep up its gold reserve? Our contemporary the *N. Y. Journal of Commerce* urges to this end that the banks furnish gold or gold certificates to importers to pay customs duties, which help, it says, "would be infinitely more effective than the 50 millions they have advanced."

A very important case is that of the Home Insurance Co. vs. Winn in the Supreme Court of Nebraska, being an appeal from the decision of a lower court adverse to the insurance company, the policy on which suit was brought required the assured to present certified copies of all bills and invoices, the originals of which have been lost, and to produce his books and accounts, and also provided that "all fraud or attempt at fraud by false swearing or otherwise shall cause a forfeit of all claim on this company." The assured admitted that he knowingly and deliberately altered his invoices in such manner as to make his purchases appear some \$1,700 greater than they had in fact been, claiming that he had been informed that it would be necessary for him to do this in order to get the actual amount due him. In the case under consideration the policy was for \$1,000 and the verdict for \$945. The court therefore held that the misrepresentation was material, and operated to defraud the company, and the decision of the lower court was reversed, and the case remanded.

The risk of death or injury to trainmen and passengers is much less now than 25 years ago, but the risk of accident to general and every inhabitant of large towns and cities has greatly increased, the risk increases as the rapidity of street travelling is increased, and other conveniences are provided which require mechanism that is always more or less risky. The *New York Evening Post* states that several hundred cases are to be tried of claims against the Brooklyn City Railroad Company for injuries by the trolleys.

New Brunswick Board of F. U.—At a meeting of the New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters, held on the 26th November, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the members of this board, having heard with deep regret of the death of Walter C. Fairweather, the inspector for the Maritime Provinces of Canada of the Imperial Insurance Company, desire to express their appreciation of his high character and ability, and they extend to his father and other members of his family heartfelt sympathy in their deep affliction; and further:

That a copy of this resolution be sent to the father, Geo. E. Fairweather, and that it be published in the *St. John* daily newspapers and in the *INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE* of Montreal.

PERSONAL MENTION.

WE ARE PLEASED to learn that Mr. Wm. Tatley is somewhat improved in his health. We are sure that his numerous friends will be glad to learn this.

MR. E. P. HEATON, manager of the Guardian Assurance Co., is at present visiting the Lower Provinces, in connection with the business of his Company.

AMONGST THE VISITORS to Montreal during the past few days was Mr. C. C. Hine. We are pleased to observe that "Ye Patriarch" looks as hale and hearty as when first we met him some 14 years ago.

AMONGST THE RECENT Insurance visitors to Montreal were. Messrs. J. J. Kenny, of Toronto; Thos. Kerr, chief inspector of the Standard Life, Toronto; A. I. Hubbard, of Toronto; B. F. Steben, of Ottawa; and R. H. Carney, of Sault Ste. Marie.

MR. A. I. HUBBARD has been appointed manager for Canada of the London Guarantee & Accident Co., in succession to the late Mr. C. D. Richardson. Mr. Hubbard has been for some years connected with the Company as general agent at Montreal. He has always been an active and conscientious worker, and we are sure he will fill the important position to which Mr. Anderson, the London secretary of the Company, has seen fit to appoint him, with satisfaction to all concerned, and we believe that under his supervision the affairs of the Company in the Dominion will be ably administered. We join his many friends in wishing both himself and his Company abundant success. He will make his headquarters at Toronto.

MR. J. J. KENNY, the popular Managing Director of the Western Assurance, spent a few days in Montreal last week. Mr. Kenny, as our readers know, is also vice-president of the British America Assurance Co., with Mr. Geo. A. Cox, president. Under the auspices of these gentlemen, ably assisted by Secretary P. H. Sims, we are glad to learn the old "B. A." is making satisfactory progress. The "Western" and "British America" are probably the most popular fire offices in the Dominion, and the position they occupy is largely, if not altogether, due to the able and honorable manner in which their affairs are managed. We think that for excellence of arrangement, suitability, convenience and elegance, the respective Toronto offices of the Western and British America are unsurpassed on this continent. We are led to believe that this year will prove a financial success for both offices, should nothing exceptional occur during the next thirty days.