

STRONGER RAILWAY CARS.—The U.S. Inter-State Railway Commission is preparing a bill requiring all passenger carriages on railways to be more strongly constructed so as to be less easily wrecked in a collision. A valuable clause might be added requiring all passenger cars to be built of fire-proof wood as this provision, to a desirable extent, would prevent the worst horrors of a railway accident.

SIR HENRY IRVING lost his temper at a town in the West, because the authorities prohibited the use of his apparatus for producing a vivid light in a scene in "The Bells," and because part of the auditorium in the theatre was closed, owing to the exit from that section being dangerously defective. Sir Henry's sneer at "Jacks in Office," was unworthy of a knight. The "Jacks" only did their duty and the duty was only required to be done for the protection of audiences. No class are more interested in theatres being made safe than actors and the theatre proprietors, for no theatre will be popular when it is suspected of being unsafe.

RENT INSURANCE AND CO-INSURANCE.—The Continental has substituted the following for the usual co-insurance clause, based upon a full year's rental:—

This Company shall be liable only for such proportion of any loss as the sum insured by this policy bears to the rental the premises would yield for the time it would take to construct the entire building at the time of the fire.

The agent is instructed to insure the rents for a capital sum, equal to the sum of the rentals for the full time it would probably take to rebuild, under the most unfavourable conditions.

INSURANCE LITERATURE.—Mr. Walter C. Wright, the well-known actuary, speaking of the use of competitive literature by agents, recently said: "Abusive, defamatory and misleading literature is certainly a disgrace to whomsoever may make use of it, but competitive or comparative literature which is really scientific in plan and impartial in character cannot be too much or too freely used by those entitled by their character to profit by it. The gain and loss exhibit, for instance, when correctly prepared, is a work of this sort, and the companies which rank well in such a showing should not be deterred by any sort of sophistry from making all possible use of such a publication."

TRUE AS GOSPEL.—In Mr. Tarbell's February Circular to the agents of the Equitable, appears the following passage, which youths and others would do well to mark, learn and inwardly digest as it is good, nutritive food:—

"Don't wait for your necessities to make your work. Work done with a sordid spirit, or as a matter of drudgery, will net you dull and sordid results. But work done out of the joy and gladness of your heart, out of the desire to do and with an eagerness to grow—that is the kind of work that brings results worth while. Like produce like. You can make your work a burden or a blessing, as you choose. *It all depends on your own attitude.*"

ALLEGED UNDERGROUND DANGER.—Union members are being asked to consider a new hazard, which is reported from Minneapolis, where steam-heating plants are in operation, with large pipes connecting various buildings. It is claimed that losses have been caused by smoke conveyed through the underground pipes from buildings on fire to other buildings often several blocks away. It is argued that insurance companies write their lines on the theory of property being absolutely cut off, and if there is an underground connection through which smoke may be conveyed, that should be taken into consideration, and

perhaps an extra charge imposed. Most underwriters are of the opinion that losses will result from such a cause very seldom, and that it is practically impossible to impose a special charge.

Mr. G. F. HARDY.—A pleasing ceremony took place on 29th January, in the Council Room of the Institute of Actuaries, London, when the colleagues of Mr. G. F. Hardy, F.I.A., in the Joint Mortality Investigation which has recently been brought to a successful issue met to give expression of their appreciation of his unique services in that connection, by presenting him with a beautiful case of silver plate.

Mr. R. P. Hardy, as Chairman of the Joint Committee, presented the testimonial. The testimonial took the form of a pair of triple silver candelabra, and a solid silver salver bearing the monogram of Mr. G. F. Hardy in the centre of a floriated design. The salver bore the inscription: "Presented, together with a Pair of Candelabra, by his Colleagues the Members of the Joint Committee of the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland, on the Mortality Investigation, to George Francis Hardy, in Grateful Recognition of his Invaluable Assistance, January, 1904."

THE UNION LIFE.—Enquirer wishes to know what connection there is, if any, between the Union Life Assurance Co., of Toronto, and the North American Life Assurance Co., of that city, both Head Offices being in the same building. The North American Life Assurance Co. is not connected in any manner or form with the Union Life Assurance Co. Both are distinct and separate organizations; one not being dependent upon the other for its success or otherwise. The Union Life Assurance Co. was organized by Mr. H. Pollman Evans, president and managing director. The North American Life does not hold one dollar of stock in it, nor are the officials of the last named Company in any way interested financially in the affairs of the Union Life Assurance Co. The credit of the success of the Union will be due to the efforts of Mr. H. Pollman Evans and the officers associated with him, because, as above stated, the North American Life Assurance Co. is not in any way responsible or connected with it.

A FOOLISH SCHEME.—There is an ordinance before the Philadelphia councils, which provides for the taking up of perpetual fire insurance policies now held by the city, and putting the withdrawal value in a sinking fund to the credit of a permanent insurance fund. This fund is to receive all payments on account of insurance until it shall amount to \$250,000. When it reaches \$300,000, the excess over \$250,000 shall be used in payment of the bonded indebtedness of the city. This is one of those brilliant schemes which public officials sometimes devise, apparently with the view that there ought to be "something doing." It is not the idea to do away with the perpetual policy, but simply to transfer the deposit to the sinking fund. Now this is about as foolish a proposition as could be brought forward. The withdrawal value of the perpetual policies is small. If taken out and put into an insurance fund, it will only pay dollar for dollar, instead of being, as it is now, a premium to secure the payment of a larger sum. There is something really naive about this, namely, that regarding the application of the surplus over \$250,000 to the payment of the bonded indebtedness of the city. This appears to have been put forward as a sort of a sugar coat for the plan. Its effect upon the bonded indebtedness will be something like setting a man up to spoon out a million-gallon tank with a six inch main pouring in a full stream all the time. If the city