

The Commercial Bulletin, N. Y., states that a year ago the Railroad Insurance Syndicate accepted a large line of risks on various roads for three years, the premium being about \$125,000. One of the syndicate a month ago declared that up to that time the companies were out of pocket some \$800,000, and since then losses have occurred which will probably bring the loss in excess of the three years' premiums up to a round \$1,000,000.

The first lawsuit on record, says the *Insurance News*, against a fire insurance company was the case of *Lynch vs. Dalzell, Cartwright & Everett*, directors of the Sun Fire, who signed the policy, and which was tried before the House of Lords, March 1, 1729. The point at issue was the alienation of the property before the fire, without obtaining the consent of the company thereto, and judgment was rendered in favor of the defendant company.

Notice of application, to be made at the next session of the Dominion Parliament, is announced by the Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co. of Canada, for an act empowering the company to insure against loss of life or injury to person or property, arising from the use of elevators or machinery connected therewith, and from machinery used for the production of electricity as a motive power or illuminating agent, and "for such other powers as may be necessary in the premises."

The Cosmopolitan Life and the Cosmopolitan Casualty Associations of Toronto, which started out last spring, are now in the hands of a liquidator, Mr. George Edwards, appointed by the County Court of York county, under the Winding-up Act of 1887. A meeting of the members of these Associations is called for December 16, for the appointment of an inspector or inspectors to superintend the proceedings of the liquidator in the winding up of their affairs. All claims are ordered to be presented on or before December 15.

It is stated by the *London News* that one Major Jameson, of the Dublin Whiskey Distillery Company, recently sued the Equitable Life of New York in London, to recover two premiums paid on a policy for \$50,000, taken on the representation that he should be made a member of the Equitable's London board. The promise seems to have been made by the London agent without authority from the company. On the suggestion of the presiding judge, the irate major was refunded his premiums, amounting to a round sum.

A fact which has escaped our notice so far—and we have made several inquiries for news lately—is that the Western Assurance Co. is not a member of the Tariff Association of New York, although the other companies represented by Roosevelt & Boughton are enrolled on the list. Manager Kenny of the Western says that as the Phenix Insurance Co. is not a member of the Toronto local board the Western will wait until it has the co-operation of the Phenix in Toronto ere it enters the local association at New York. —*Commercial Bulletin*, New York.

Three more assessmer endowment concerns of Boston are knocked out. One, the New Era Equitable Association, by injunction, on the petition of certificate holders, restraining it from paying out moneys or disposing of its assets; another, the United Order of the Golden Lion, disposed of in a similar manner; and the other, the Order of the Mystic Seven, placed in the hands of a receiver. Meanwhile the Fraternal Circle, the Bay State League, and the Mutual One-year Benefit Order are all in a whirl of various court proceedings to get at the funds deposited with the State Treasurer, but without avail.

The people of Chicago are still discussing what shall be the maximum height allowable for buildings in that city. That a check to the high building craze is imperative is agreed among all intelligent classes. The Real Estate Board has declared for 160 feet as the maximum; Chief Swenie of the fire department, for a height not exceeding twice the width of the street; and the Builders' and Traders' Exchange, without expressly naming the limit, emphatically declare for a material reduction in altitude. The Fire Underwriters' Association has also taken similar action.

It is the unexpected that happens—not always, but at least with wonderful frequency. The appointment of Mr. Lansing Lewis, of Lewis & Kirby, general insurance agents of Winnipeg, to be chief agent of the Caledonian for Canada, is surely one of the things unexpected. With a number of experienced and capable underwriters at Montreal and Toronto, trained in general agency work and familiar with the whole field, to choose from, the selection made by the directors of the Caledonian was a new departure and certainly surprising. We are glad to learn that the firm of Lewis & Kirby has been successful in the Northwest, and we trust that in his larger and more responsible field Mr. Lewis may be equally successful.

Caledonian Insurance Company.—With reference to a statement which appeared in the last issue of a contemporary of this city, and which is copied on another page, we are in a position to state that Mr. Gillespie has had no communication whatever with Mr. Hudson as to becoming in any way associated with him in the management of the Caledonian. It is a pity that reckless statements of this kind should be made in print, as they only cause annoyance to those whose names are so freely used. We have reason to believe, however, that Mr. Gillespie could have had the management of the company had he been willing to accept its conditions. It can, however, easily be understood that a gentleman with his business engagements and high commercial standing and influence would not care to accept ordinary terms.

PERSONAL MENTION.

MR. BROWN of Galt, inspector of the London and Lancashire Life, has been in Kingston recently, pushing business vigorously.

MR. BARTON of the British America of Toronto has, we understand, been appointed agency manager of the Greenwich of New York.

MR. T. C. LAZIER of Belleville, formerly agent for the Canada Life, has been appointed general agent of the Standard Life for the county of Hastings.

MR. W. J. FAIR of Kingston has resigned the agency of the Liverpool, London and Globe, and Messrs. Strange and Strange have been appointed instead.

MR. ISRAEL C. PIERSON, the efficient secretary of the Actuarial Society of America, and actuary of the Washington Life of New York, has been elected a corresponding member of the French Institute of Actuaries; a well-deserved honor.

GENERAL MANAGER J. N. LANE, of the United Fire and the Palatine, and United States Manager Wm. Wood, have returned to New York after a two months' sojourn on the Pacific Coast, where arrangements have been made for the Palatine to transact business.