

He was rated at 28 cents an hour and was working 10 hours a day for an average of 286 days a year. Thus, his average earnings amounted to \$800.80. However, according to the Act, when a workman's wages exceeded \$600 a year, the surplus up to \$1,000 shall give a right to one-quarter of the compensation mentioned. Hence the plaintiff would be entitled to a pension or rente of \$26 per annum. In cases of inexcusable fault on the part of the workman, however, the court had discretionary power in the matter of reducing the compensation. Accordingly plaintiff's pension was reduced to \$20 per year.

## Insurance Briefs.

St. John, N.B., has been lately worried by firebugs. As a result, it is stated that the city commissioners have decided to hold a public investigation into the affairs of the police department.

Lloyds Plate Glass Insurance Company, of New York reports assets as at January 1, 1913, of \$958,570. After allowing for all liabilities and capital stock there is a net surplus of \$316,549. The surplus to policyholders is \$566,549. The Company has paid in losses since organisation, \$4,380,414.

The Edmonton Fire Insurance Association was formally organized at a meeting of forty representatives of various companies. The officers are: President, R. N. Frith; secretary, O. A. Davis; committee on rules and constitution, Robert Mays, E. C. Chauvin, O. A. Davis, E. C. Cope and E. F. Racey. H. H. Motley, of Calgary, discussed the insurance act recently passed by the legislature of Alberta. The association will invite the Calgary union to join it in forming the Alberta Fire Underwriters' Association.

A learned English Council lecturing recently on the subject of Workmen's Compensation, said that he was once in a compensation case where a small colliery boy had gone down a mine for the first time in his life. The boy was sent by his father to a neighbouring stall in order to get a rail, but came back declaring that he had seen the devil. The boy was so frightened that he was unable to go down the mine again for a month. "And," added the learned counsel, "although the ogre was only the colliery cat, we managed to secure compensation for him."

Like the life companies had to do in pulling out of Texas on account of the Robertson law, so the fire companies may decide that it is not worth while to continue in business in Missouri owing to the legislation in that state, which is said to be unduly severe. The Attorney General of that state has even gone so far as to threaten the companies with revocation of license unless they immediately reduce their rates. What rubbish! It is more than likely that, unless an understanding can be arrived at, the companies will cease doing business in that commonwealth.—*Insurance Advocate*.

Mr. McKeown's bill regarding proof of age in life insurance policies, introduced into the Ontario legislature, has been rejected by the committee to whom it was referred. The bill will, however, be redrafted to require that insurance companies give written notice on delivery of the policy that proof of age is essential to the contract; that a written notice to this effect and in a form approved by the Inspector of Insurance, be given yearly until the proof of age is submitted, and that a clause to the effect that an age certificate must be supplied before settlement of a claim shall be printed in red ink upon every renewal receipt.

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A conference of officials from the home office of the New York Life Insurance Company with the agents from the branch offices at Montreal, Quebec and Toronto, was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal. Among the officials present were John C. McCall, vice-president of the company; Seaton Lindsay, superintendent of agencies; W. H. Pierson, assistant secretary; Dr. G. E. McLellan, of the medical department; J. E. Briggs, inspector of agencies for the eastern department, and S. L. Joseph, of New York, and J. J. Parker, of Cleveland, two of the company's leading agents. About 75 in all were present. Vice-President McCall stated that the company had \$59,000,000 of insurance in force in Canada, and that of the assets \$15,000,000 was invested in Canadian securities and mortgages. Since January 1st one million dollars had been put into Canadian investments, while another million is in commitments for the same purpose.

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## WARNINGS AGAINST STATE INSURANCE.

Two recent disasters strongly emphasize the great danger of the movement toward state insurance, but it is doubtful whether the lessons incident thereto make any great impression upon the mind of the average politician seeking political prominence. We refer to the great havoc wrought in Omaha and other sections of the west by a tornado and the flood disasters in Ohio and Indiana. In each instance the loss in human lives and property has been enormous. As regards the property damage in both cases, it may be said that the insurance risk is nil. There is no reason why this should be true in connection with the tornado losses. Quite a large percentage of fire insurance companies write tornado insurance, the premium charge for the assumption of the hazard being insignificant. There is also a heavy loss due to the breakage of plate glass. "Flood insurance" has not as yet gained any considerable headway, but each disaster such as that which visited Ohio and Indiana during the past week, has revived agitation in favor of such a branch of insurance protection. However, there can be no question as to the magnitude of the combined loss were the lives lost in the calamities referred to insured under a system of state insurance. The comparison could be carried still further by pointing out the enormous losses which have occurred with surprising regularity. Are hazards of this nature such as a state should assume? We believe that were this question put before the business men of any state the answer would be overwhelmingly negative.—*Insurance World*.