

## Notes and Items.

The total amount of premiums received in Kansas in 1897 by all the companies was \$1,735,983, the amount paid out in losses, \$626,424.

On account of "extraordinary powers contained in its charter," the license of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee has been revoked in Pennsylvania.

The Merchants Bank of Canada has opened offices at the following points:—Edmonton, Alberta, J. S. Willmott, Manager; Neepawa, Manitoba, W. A. Allan, Manager; Portage La Prairie, Manitoba, A. G. Halstead, Manager; and Souris, Manitoba, H. M. P. Eckardt, Manager. No one can complain of want of enterprise on the part of Canadian Banks.

**Water caused Fire at Dayton, Ohio.** The Craig-Reynolds shops in North Dayton were flooded with ten feet of water, which reached some packages of carbide of calcium. This formed acetylene gas, which caused several explosions and caught fire, doing \$10,000 worth of damage. The fire department had to fight the flames from boats.

**What is known** as the Bevens bill relating to corporate names of insurance companies in the State of New York has been signed at Albany. The bill provides that the Insurance Commissioner shall not license any insurance company to do business in the State of New York if it has the name of a corporation doing similar business in the State.

**An important suit** has been decided in favor of the Aetna Life (in its accident department) at Denver, Col. Suit was brought against the company claiming that the death of an accident policyholder, named E. C. Bullong, was due to a fall. The company contention was that the fall was the result of aneurism, purely a bodily infirmity, and not the result of an accident. The case was on trial for two weeks, and resulted in a verdict for the company.

**St. Johns', Nfld.**—The Colonial Legislature has closed. The session occupied nine weeks. It was the shortest on record, but at the same time was unprecedented in the number and variety of important matters dealt with.

Mr. Herbert Murray, the governor, in the speech from the throne, referred to the favorable prospects of the seal fishery, although marred by the Greenland disaster. He highly commended the measures defining the functions of the several departments of the public service, providing for competent audit of the public accounts, and enforcing greater stringency at elections. He also praised the legislation aiming at the encouragement of the sealing fishery, mining, clearing land and the exportation of herring, together with the railway contract and the readjustment of the tariff.

Sir Herbert Murray announced the intention of the Government to push negotiations for an Imperial commission of enquiry into the affairs of the colony, and to claim financial assistance from Great Britain on the ground that the colony's present difficulties are largely due to French encroachments on the coast of Newfoundland, which are tolerated by Great Britain for Imperial interests.

The new rules governing the sale and storage of fireworks in Greater New York provide that no permit shall be issued for the sale of fireworks in any building constructed wholly of wood in a radius of five miles from the City Hall. Only one permit will be given for the sale of fireworks in a square block. A permit for the year will cost \$5.

**Whether the twenty-five** hundred members of the defunct United Life Association of Brooklyn, N.Y., which was incorporated in 1885 and which passed into the hands of a receiver in 1896, are liable to pay *pro rata* an indebtedness of \$235,228 is to be decided by the courts. Several members have formed a committee to contest the receivers' claim and will fight it to the bitter end.

**A bill amending the** Insurance law of the State of New York has been passed at Albany, permitting insurance companies to omit sending notices to policyholders when quarterly or semi-annual premiums are due. A proposed amendment providing that the Act should not apply to policies now in force unless a copy of the law is sent to every policy-holder within five days was defeated by 76 to 47.

**Probably the lowest rate** ever quoted in the history of fire insurance in the United States is that made by the Continental Fire of New York to the New York Clearing House to insure its building at a rate of five cents for five years, or \$500 for \$1,000,000 of insurance for five years! The Continental is a company distinguished for its uncompromising spirit of patriotism and discrimination against the alien and all his acts.

**At a meeting of the Finance Committee** of the New York Life Insurance Company on Monday last resolutions were adopted commending and supporting the President in his Cuban policy so far as it has been made public, and offering in the event of war to place immediately at the disposal of the United States a loan of \$10,000,000 on such terms as the government shall deem just. The treasurer of the New York Life was authorized and directed to do whatever is necessary to carry the resolution into effect.

**The Provident Saving Life Assurance Society** of the United States, under the management of President E. W. Scott, is strikingly progressive and prosperous. It has entirely outgrown its present quarters at 29 Broadway (thought to be fully adequate for years), and on and after May 1 next will be housed under the hospitable roof of the New York Life, at 346 Broadway. The Metropolitan Agency of the Society will be in the new Washington Life Building, at Broadway and Liberty streets.

**The Insurance Commissioner** of Wisconsin having refused a license to the Fidelity and Casualty of New York, the company applied to the Supreme Court of Wisconsin for a mandamus directing the Insurance Commissioner to issue a license to it. The Supreme Court has refused the application which now relegates the Company to the Circuit Court of the State. The trouble between the Company and the Commissioner has arisen out of a demand made by him upon the Company for about \$9,000 for unpaid fees, but the principle involved and for which the Company will fight is whether an Insurance Commissioner or any other officer can deprive a corporation of its privileges otherwise than by due process of law.