

PERSONALS

Mr. A. S. Bennett, F.C.I.I., assistant general manager of the Eagle Star & British Dominions, was in Montreal this week and visited the *Chronicle* Office. Mr. Bennett, who has been on this side of the water since the 15th October, visited San Francisco, Los Angeles and other important centres at the Pacific Coast, in addition to important cities in Western Canada, where he was accompanied by Mr. J. H. Riddel, Canadian manager. Mr. Bennett has been overlooking the Company's business, generally, on this side, and seeing what the prospects are for future development. The Eagle Star & British Dominions recently issued £100,000 £3, fully paid shares at a premium of £12 to present shareholders, only in proportion to holdings. The already strong position of the Company is further strengthened thereby by the addition of no less a sum than £1,200,00 to reserve, and increasing the paid up capital to \$5,239,000. Its total assets exceed \$85,000,000. The Eagle Star & British Dominions might be termed one of the most remarkable modern insurance undertakings, carried on by an ever-increasing, vigorous, forward movement. In addition to its fire business, the Company operates an important marine business in Canada through the well-known firm of Dale & Co., Montreal, who are also agents of the fire department.

Mr. C. W. Jones, foreign fire manager of the National Benefit Assurance Company, Limited, London, England, accompanied by Mr. Bernard Francis (son of the general manager) was in Montreal this week. Both gentlemen had just returned from the Pacific Coast. About a year ago the Company entered British Columbia for the transaction of fire insurance and appointed Mr. J. T. Summerfield, Vancouver, its chief agent for Canada. The Company has not made much progress in its fire insurance department in Canada. As previously pointed out in these columns, the Canadian field is densely crowded with strong fire companies, all competing for business, and it is a difficult proposition for the smaller companies, whose lines are apt to be restricted, to meet with sufficient encouragement.

Mr. James Macdonald, a son of Mr. J. R. Macdonald, joint manager of the Mount Royal Assurance Co., who became connected with the Sterling Offices Limited, of London, England, some months ago, has recently been appointed assistant superintendent of the Fire Department of that institution.

NEW NET TO SCOOP THE AUTO THIEVES

In order to help run down the automobile thief the Montreal Automobile Association has issued to its members a form on which is a series of questions which they are asked to fill out and return.

On this sheet is listed questions such as: Make of car, license number, manufacturer's number, private or any distinguishing mark, place where it

was stolen, time, etc. All of these, when answered, serve as a means of identification, which is immediately handed to the police, then placed in the hands of the Association's special representative.

Another means of providing information to its members is the issuance of a weekly post card, which was started during last summer. On it is briefly described the coming events, speed traps, repairs on roads around the vicinity, and any automobile races or similar events which are to take place. This idea has met with great success among the members, as it placed before them such information as they could use to good advantage.

MORAL HAZARD OF A JOB

Environment rather than innate character is considered the root of the moral hazard upon which surety companies must speculate in the daily routine of business, according to Henry D. Lyman, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the American Surety Company, who is quoted in an interesting article in the New York Sun. Mr. Lyman is a surety man of more than forty years' experience. In fact, his whole business life has been one long study of human foibles and failures, human weaknesses and the ways of men and money, the reasons as to just "why men go wrong." He has investigated these things not only from a purely business viewpoint but also from a personal angle, and in his opinion it is more a matter of the job that a man holds, the atmosphere and environment attendant to the job, than the man himself; it is the job, not the man that is as the potter's clay; the job can make or unmake the man.

An employer is held as much to blame by Mr. Lyman for an act of dishonesty on the part of one of his employees as the actual perpetrator of the crime. He further holds that the business world is in desperate need of a "moral safety first" movement. As a matter of fact, he considers the taking of precautions to protect employees from moral hazards at least of equal importance with protection from physical hazards. He strongly urges therefore that employers of all classes of labor and brains carefully study the jobs they offer men, study the men and study both in every detail for harmonious co-operation.

"We wouldn't bond a man for a box office position in a 'White Way' theatre for \$5,000; let the same man go down town and get a position in a good bank and we'll bond him for \$10,000." Mr. Lyman says. "There are more temptations to dishonesty in a ticket office than in a bank—and more excitement, too. There are many more cases of dishonesty among ticket sellers than among bank clerks. Dishonesty is very often a matter of atmosphere."