

LIFE ASSURANCE FRAUDS.

The curious life assurance case recently threshed out in the courts reminds me of a case which was tried some years ago, and in which an ingenious gentleman who attempted to "bleed" a Company was completely nonplussed. The man insured his life for a very heavy sum, and then purchased a ramshackle steam launch, in which he went a trip out to sea. The boiler burst, the launch foundered, and nothing more was seen of the man. His friends, alleging that he had gone to the bottom with the launch, made a claim upon the Company for the money. The Company smelling a rat, disputed the claim. After a great deal of trouble the position of the wreck was ascertained, and after further trouble it was hoisted to the surface and towed ashore, where it was examined by experts. The safety-valve was found to be screwed down, and the boiler so rotten that it was bound to explode when steam reached a certain pressure. The curious thing was that no trace of the man was found, not so much as a shirt-button. Now it was pretty clear that he must have banked up the fires and screwed down the safety-valve, but what had become of him after that? He could not have rushed on deck and jumped into the sea and swam ashore, for it was well-known that he could not swim. Nor could he have rowed ashore, or the boat would have been in evidence against him. The mystery was made clear as daylight by a couple of schoolboys, who stated that they had seen the launch snugly hidden away in a creek along the shore, had seen the man stoke the fire, start the engines, and then step on to some rocks, walk calmly ashore, and watch the little craft take its way seawards, the tiller having been previously lashed. This cool individual then walked to the next town, shaved, purchased a new suit of clothes, took train to a certain junction, changed, and came on to London in a train which was crammed with racing men, and where, of course, he passed quite unnoticed. From London he went to the continent, and thence made his way to the States, where he awaited the arrival of his friends with their ill-gotten booty. As it happened, neither the booty nor the friends arrived. In fact, the whole plot collapsed, as did the boiler, and the insurance Company kept their money.—*The Pelican*.

WINNIPEG WATER WORKS' SYSTEM

Mayor Andrews of Winnipeg has sailed for Great Britain, and will visit London chiefly in connection with the Winnipeg Water Works question.

There is a serious misunderstanding between the Water Works Company and the City, concerning the attitude of the latter towards the former. The bond-holders of the company seem to consider that the city is not keeping faith with reference to the arrangement made with the company. On the other hand, the city claims that the company is in fault and has not given a water service sufficient for the demands of such a growing municipality.

The water works' system is of the utmost importance to a city making such rapid strides as Winnipeg, and her representatives are expected to look after her interests in this connection. At the same time, we are sure that the City of Winnipeg will live up to any agreement made with the Water Works Company, and we hope a compromise agreement may yet be arrived at.

We believe that the time has arrived when Winnipeg should own and operate its own water works, and that no unnecessary delay should occur in carrying this matter through; but all due regard should be paid to the rights and privileges granted to the existing water works company and incidentally to the bond-holders.

RETIREMENT OF MR. C. M. TAYLOR.

On the first proximo, Mr. C. M. Taylor, who projected and superintended the formation of the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company, becoming its Secretary and filling that position for the long period of thirty-five years, will retire from active work, because of failing health. The news will be received with regret by every one who knows aught of the growth and success of the Waterloo Mutual and incidentally of Mr. Taylor's close connection therewith. A sketch of his career published in the *Waterloo County Chronicle* closes with the following graceful and deserved tribute to the retiring Secretary.

"It will be seen from the foregoing that Mr. Taylor's life has been a very busy one, and, measured by the growth of the companies he organized, one that has been crowned with the highest success. He will still retain his position as vice-president of the Ontario Mutual and will continue to reside in Waterloo, the scene of his triumphs and successes. He will now be freed from the daily worries and cares of business, and the wish of his many friends is that his health may be completely restored and that he may yet live many years to enjoy the evening of life. His life has been characterized by singular devotion to duty, and he now retires, esteemed alike by the office staff and the agents in the field, and carries with him into his retirement the best wishes of the officials of other companies with whom he was always on the most cordial and pleasant relations."

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Mr. Frank Haight, for several years the efficient Assistant Secretary of the Company, was appointed Manager, to take the place of the retiring Secretary, Mr. C. M. Taylor. The appointment is regarded as an excellent one. We predict a bright future for the newly appointed Secretary of a very popular insurance company.

HAWAII.—The Hawaiian Commercial Company announced on the San Francisco Stock and Bond Comchanges, on the 12th inst., that its capital stock, now \$10,000,000, would be increased \$5,000,000, the object being to equip a complete refining plant in the Hawaiian Islands, and ship the product to the United States, thus announcing its intention to fight the Sugar Trust.