

ready for distribution among the members. Well known speakers will address the meetings. The Hon. J. J. Barry, of Detroit, Insurance Commissioner for the State of Michigan, has already expressed his willingness to appear before the Institute at an early date. Mr. Barry, with his experience extending over a long period of time, can be counted upon to give an address worthy of attention. Mr. Charles Warren Pickell, of Detroit, manager for Michigan of the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co., has also expressed his intention of being present at one of the meetings. His name will recall to the members of the Institute who are also members of the Life Underwriters' Association, his "encored" address at Toronto last year entitled "The Magic Key."

It is the intention of the Executive Committee to arrange for the attendance of all well wishers of insurance in its various branches without the necessity of the payment of a party fee. In other words the meetings will be free and a cordial invitation is extended to all interested in insurance. Certainly this good cause merits hearty support. Friendly rivalry with the Toronto Institute should prove an incentive to new successes.

Farmers Still Have Some Rights.

Sir Melbourne Tait has refused to grant Mr. Lichtenhein a mandamus against the corporation of Pointe Claire to compel it to keep its road running along the Lake Shore in good enough condition for his automobile. The judgment was based upon technical grounds, but His Lordship discussing the merits of the case expressed the opinion that the Pointe Claire roads are reasonably free from defects and, as ordinary country municipal roads, meet the requirements of the law. The judgment is eminently wise and just. That the farmers should have to keep up roads suitable for automobile racing at their own expense while prevented from using the roads by the automobiles, is preposterous. These slaughter machines have lowered the value of every foot of land along the Lake Shore. Wisely used the automobile would have been a boon and a blessing to men. As generally used it is an intolerable nuisance. Five people were killed a week or two ago at one race meeting, and nobody has been prosecuted for manslaughter. Fatal "accidents" from automobile follies are of daily occurrence. We hope the suit against the corporation of Pointe Claire will serve to call the attention of the Provincial Government to the urgent need for legislation which will protect the farmers of the province from the arrogant, offensive, dangerous automobile.

Toronto Fire.

The fire which destroyed the west wing of the Legislative Buildings, Toronto, also destroyed the library; including, it is to be feared, much valuable material that money cannot replace. It is astounding to learn that fully twenty minutes elapsed after the first alarm was given, before the first firemen arrived upon the scene. Sir James Whitney and his colleagues preserved a judicious but ominous silence on the subject while the fire was in progress, but the Premier intimated that he would have something to say about the matter.

Canadian Cattle in England.

A deputation called upon Premier Asquith and Lord Carrington, the British Minister of Agriculture, to urge the removal of the embargo on Canadian live cattle. The Premier was sympathetic, but allowed Lord Carrington to assume the whole responsibility of advising the government to take no action. The matter is now becoming a purely domestic one. It is of far greater interest to the British consumer than to the Canadian farmer and rancher. In some respects the embargo is a good thing for Canada, because it ensures the fattening here of cattle, that but for it, would be fattened in the United Kingdom. What Canadians object to is the false pretence upon which the embargo is maintained, the pretence that it is a necessary defence against a cattle disease which is absolutely non-existent in the Dominion. It does not seem to matter which party is in power in England; both are protectionists to the hilt on the cattle question and neither of them has the courage to confess that its practises are protectionist.

The Lurgan Riot.

The only satisfactory feature about the riot at Lurgan (which arose out of nothing, but ended in the killing of one man, the wounding of many and the destruction of much property) is that it serves to call attention to the fact that such disturbances are getting very rare. Not many years ago such a fight would have attracted no notice whatever outside of Lurgan and would have aroused but passing interest there. A newspaper despatch naively remarks "the Riot Act was read, but not one word was heard a yard away." Did anybody ever hear the Riot Act? The reading thereof is an incantation which has lost its terrors.

British Association.

The British Association for the Advancement of Science has completed its labours at Winnipeg by the election of a new general council for the coming year. The new president is the Rev. Professor T. G. Bonney, of London, a distinguished geologist. Five new members have been added to the council. The 1910-11 meeting will be held in Sheffield, and the 1911-12 meeting in Portsmouth. It is not improbable that the 1912-13 meeting will be held in Canada, both the Montreal and Winnipeg meetings having been highly successful.

Lord Rosebery Opposes the Budget.

Lord Rosebery has come out squarely against Mr. Asquith's budget. Hitherto his attitude has been non-committal, but he has promised to speak at an anti-budget meeting at Glasgow on the 10th instant. Lord Rosebery is one of the greatest forces in British politics. His opposition to the budget will unquestionably have a tremendous influence upon the electorate.

North Pole Discovered?

According to the New York Herald the North Pole, it is alleged, has been reached by Dr. Frederick A. Cook, an American explorer, accompanied by two Esquimaux on April 21, 1908. Full information from Dr. Cook regarding the expedition will be awaited with world-wide interest.