

We learn that a joint committee representing the National Fraternal Congress and the Associated Fraternities of America has prepared a plan of consolidation and a constitution which was unanimously adopted by both committees. This is to be submitted to special separate meetings of the two organizations, to be held in Chicago early next year. If each organization approves the plan, both are to meet together to perfect the proposed consolidation.

It is now stated by the United States "Review" that special assessments are to be levied upon the old members of the Ancient Order of the United Workmen in Michigan, the Grand Lodge being \$150,000 behind on its death claims, largely owing to excess mortality among the older members, who are paying inadequate rates. It has been decided to levy ten special monthly assessments on the members over fifty-five years old, which are expected to realize \$75,000, and against these collections \$50,000 is to be borrowed to clear up some of the old claims. The increase made in rates last year turns out to have been inadequate, hence the above step.

Mr. George W. Perkins, of J. P. Morgan, & Co., N. Y., has resigned his offices of first vice-president and chairman of the finance committee of the New York Life Assurance Company. He is succeeded as first vice-president by Alexander E. Orr, president of the New York City Rapid Transit Commission, and as chairman of the finance committee by John Chafin, head of the H. B. Chafin Company. Mr. Charles A. Peabody, a prominent New York lawyer, who has been appointed president of the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, has issued the following statement: "I desire to communicate directly with the policyholders of the company, for whose benefit a great trust is being administered. No private interest controls this company, and I enter upon the discharge of my duties as the representative solely of the policyholders, chosen unanimously by their elected representatives, the board of trustees. The new administration stands pledged to economy, to lawful methods and to reform of existing abuses. Much has already been accomplished to carry out these pledges, and all will be done that is necessary to fully redeem them. The board of trustees is harmonious and united upon these matters. The company possesses financial resources far beyond its liabilities. Lapses and surrenders of policies mean abandonment of accumulations and the savings of years of thrift. Policyholders are urged to continue their policies in the company, and not to withdraw from it."

FIRE INSURANCE NOTES.

Fair warning has been given by the insurance commissioner of Pennsylvania, Mr. Martin, to all life insurance companies doing business in that state that they must file written agreements abolishing giving of rebates, dismissing agents who do so and refusing to employ such agents for three years after dismissal.

Consequent upon the death of Mr. Walter Kavanagh, of Montreal, a new appointment has been made to the agency there of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company of Edinburgh, and the German-American Insurance Company, New York. The appointees are Essinhart & Maguire. This new firm is composed of Mr. Henry J. Essinhart and Mr. Charles H. J. Maguire, who have been associated with the late chief agent of these companies, Mr. Walter Kavanagh, for years past. They are spoken of as energetic men, with a fair knowledge of fire underwriting.

We are favored with one of the nicely-colored calendars for 1906 of the Northern Assurance Co., of London, England, of which Mr. Robert W. Tyre is Canadian manager. Its illustration bears the legend, "Canada Enthroned," and represents a helmeted, but rather characterless blue-eyed Britannia occupying a joint throne with Canada, who is a spirited-looking creature, wearing a coronet very audaciously conventionalized out of maple leaves. This joint imperial throne has been placed by the artist—alas! what a

drop from the sublime to the commonplace—upon a wharf on which is some of the inevitable "Manitoba No. 1 Hard," and also some "No. 2 Northern," while an Allan liner fills the ocean distance.

GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

Several capitalists of Winnipeg and St. Thomas have joined together to organize a company under the name of the Dominion Produce Company, for the purpose of carrying on a trade in eggs, butter, cheese and provisions. Branches will be established in Winnipeg, St. Thomas, Calgary, Nelson, Vancouver and Fort William. G. W. Prout, of Winnipeg, is to be manager, we understand.

A despatch to the Halifax "Chronicle" from Yarmouth, N.S., dated 12th inst., stated that the four lobster factories formerly owned by George A. Shand have been taken over by the George A. Shand Company, Limited. The following board of directors was elected: Geo. A. Shand, president; M. Neville and J. A. Neville and Lewis Mood. E. H. Armstrong is secretary. The company is capitalized at \$50,000 and includes several Halifax capitalists. At present the new concern intends to operate four factories in connection with which they will run a steamer.

DRY GOODS NEWS.

J. R. James and Robert Roy Moodie, of Hamilton, have formed a company under the name of the Eagle Spinning Mills, Limited, with a capital stock of \$250,000, with the object of spinning, manufacturing, buying and dealing in cotton, merino, and woolen yarns and to make yarns of every description, also of buying, selling and dealing in all kinds of cotton, woolen and other materials used in the above-named business. An Ontario charter has been obtained and the head offices are to be in Hamilton.

—The civic revenue of Montreal shows a marked increase up to the close of November. A statement prepared at the city hall shows the increase in revenue up to December 1 to have been a million over that of last year. The increase in property assessments alone is about \$200,000, and increases under other heads are in proportion. The grand total collected on revenue last year was \$3,417,082, while this year it is \$3,919,738, an increase not far from thirteen per cent.

—An unsatisfactory condition of things in the important realm of technical education is revealed by the recent statement of Principal Pakenham, of the Toronto Technical School, before the Toronto branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. He stated that the pupils were obliged to work too much in theory, and have not enough practical demonstration. The Association, we note, appointed a committee to go into the whole matter of technical education.

—Evidence accumulates as to the practicability of navigating Hudson's Bay for a large proportion of the year, and now that two or three railways are being projected to reach its coasts, the importance of the question becomes proportionately greater. Early in the spring of last year, an expedition was sent out under the joint auspices of the Mounted Police and the Marine Department, under the command of Major Moodie, and one of its chief objects was to ascertain during what period of the year navigation of the bay is absolutely safe, so far as freedom from ice is concerned. The Major's conclusions are that for four months in the year the Hudson's Bay route is open to ordinary navigation, but that, to make it safe for commercial ship-