

**PERSONALS.**

MR. CHARLES R. GILBERT.—On Christmas Eve, the office staff of the Mainland Board of Fire Underwriters, Vancouver, B. C., presented the Secretary, Mr. Charles R. Gilbert with an address and beautiful gold headed walking stick, suitably inscribed, as a token of their appreciation of his sterling qualities as head of that organization. The Secretary, although wholly taken by surprise, in a very neat speech, thanked the donors, wishing all a very Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year.

MR. W. P. HUNT who arrived in Montreal on the 13th instant, will assume the management of the Montreal branch of the bank of Nova Scotia, on the 1st Feb., in succession to Mr. Pitblado, who is resigning to go into the stockbroking business as previously announced in THE CHRONICLE.

Mr. Hunt has had a long banking experience, having been in the service of this bank for past twenty years, and until recently, manager at Kingston, Jamaica, where he had hosts of friends. Previously he was in charge of different branches of the bank in the Maritime Provinces.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD that the Metropolitan Bank of Canada has acquired the old Guardian site on St. James street, with a building to be erected thereon for it. This will give the Metropolitan one of the most central and conveniently situated banking premises in Montreal.

THE MANY FRIENDS OF MR. M. C. HINSHAW, Canadian Manager of the Atlas Assurance Company, will regret to learn that he is confined to his residence with a serious attack of pneumonia. We wish him a speedy recovery.

MR. E. L. PHILPS, St. John, N. B., Special Agent British America Assurance Co., for Maritime Provinces, was in the city this week en route to Toronto. He reports St. John to have had a prosperous year.

MR. C. T. GILLESPIE, Toronto, Manager for Ontario and Maritime Provinces, of Provident Savings Life, of New York, called upon us this week.

MR. CHARLES A. WITHERS, Toronto, Inspector Dominion of Canada Guarantee and Accident Co., was in Montreal on 13th inst.

## Notes and Items.

### At Home and Abroad.

CHRISTMAS WEEK FIRES.—Fire losses in the Western States during Christmas week were exceptionally heavy.

REMOVAL.—The Excelsior Life, Toronto, has purchased the Victoria Chambers building for its offices, which has been re-named the Excelsior Life building.

THE RICHMOND, DRUMMOND & YAMASKA MUTUAL FIRE reports fire losses in Dec. last, Manufacture de Montmagny as \$9,000, insurance, \$5,333, its proportion, \$1,600.

THE LOSS ON THE FAMOUS CHATEAU D'EU IN FRANCE, means extensive losses for a number of British fire offices. Still more unfortunate, however, is the position of the Duc d'Orleans, who finds the home of his ancestors very much underinsured.

DISAPPEARS AND RE-APPEARS.—George Nipper disappeared 10 years ago. After being away 7 years without any tidings being heard of him, his widow claimed and was paid \$15,000, the amount of his life policy. The "U. S. Review" reports that an inspector of the Mutual Life recently found this man in Denver, in a state of extreme poverty and mental collapse. The supposed widow, when the insurance money was paid to her, gave a bond, so it will have to be returned, though, as she married again it may not be possible to collect the money.

THE ODDFELLOWS AND THE FORESTERS, our principal friendly benefit societies, are competing with each other in a race for the millionth member. Both orders are not very far short of the number and each is offering prizes to stimulate enrolment.

### NOTES AND ITEMS.

FOR FIFTY YEARS AUGUSTUS HENDRICKS has been in the service of the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company. His position now is Actuary and Resident Secretary in London, and last week the London directors made him a handsome service of plate in honour of the jubilee.

STEAMSHIP PASSENGERS.—The cabin passengers landed in New York last year, numbered 139,848, and steerage 574,276. The ocean steamers visiting that port made 922 trips in 1902, against 838 in 1901. Such a passenger traffic must have found a large business for insurance companies.

PATENT REPORT.—Messrs. Fetherstonhaugh & Co., patent solicitor, Canada Life building, furnish us with the following list of patents granted to Canadians, in the following countries. Any further information may be readily obtained from them direct:—CANADIAN PATENTS.—T. Barrow, pneumatic cranes, H. Tweedie, hot air registers, F. L. Jones, pocket umbrellas, B. N. Pepin, carriage springs, A. E. Campbell, cheese case with knife attached for cutting cheese, W. C. Metge, plaster boards, J. Savage, turbine water wheels of the parallel flow type, R. Christie and T. B. Christie, belt tighteners for threshing machines, F. V. Alle, vehicle wheels, H. H. Pitts, acetylene gas generators, H. Barnard, wheel tyres, J. Corbett, workman's time checkers, J. J. Collier and S. Goddard, elastic tread for horseshoes, Mrs. E. S. Stewart, combination invalid's bed supports, S. H. Martel, jun., window shades, J. B. Tasse, cooking stoves, O. H. Taylor, roller skates, G. Wedlake, wheels, J. D. McArthur, method of slitting leather belting for splicing, H. Aylmer, marine life saving devices, G. A. Roedde, loose leaf binders.—AMERICAN PATENTS.—C. C. Barber, safe, L. Boivin, decoupling attachment, F. Dooling, ditching plow, J. D. Forsythe, acetylene gas generator, H. A. Frasch, cobalt-ammonium salt and making same, G. G. Glenn, mop head and wringer, C. H. Hutchings, fence post, J. Jacobson, fish cleaner and scaler, J. Lawson, carpet stretcher, A. E. Layco, radiator, P. McGinnis, starting gate, Ellen T. Reed, erasure plate for typewriting machines, C. Ryan, garment measuring and drafting device, W. J. Shortill, recapement motion, F. H. Sleeper, valve gear for engines, J. C. Steele, combined truck and bag holder, W. Thompson, metallic tyre.

INSURANCE SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.—The third sessional meeting of this body was held on Dec. 16, in the Faculty of Actuaries' Hall, Mr. A. Duncan, Manager Scottish Union and National, presiding. Mr. Chapman, Joint Secretary Caledonian, read a paper on "Insurance Fieldwork—its lights and shadows." He dealt first with the possibilities of this kind of labour for the young insurance man, remarking that the harvest therein was plentiful, but the workers were few, though in it, he said, a man of the