

QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1577.—W. J. B. Brockville.—We were in error in stating in our issue of 10th inst., that Russian bonds were not listed in New York. The Imperial Russian Government State 4 p.c. Rentas to the amount of \$2,310,000,000 are listed and officially quoted on the New York Stock Exchange. The bonds are issued in the denomination of rubles. Two rubles equalling one dollar.

1581.—D. T. G., Montreal.—The Toledo Railways and Light Company has perpetual franchises for lighting. Its railway franchises expire at various dates from 1909 to 1918. Negotiations for an extension of its railway privileges on the streets are being made, but so far nothing is known of the outcome of these efforts.

ALCOHOL IN DISFAVOUR AS A DRUG.

"I would like to say at once," said Sir Victor Horsley, surgeon of the University College, London, the first speaker at convention of the British Medical Association, being held in Toronto, "that the profession at home has the same hostile attitude on the whole towards alcohol as you have, and I will prove it to you, and I mean alcohol not only as a beverage, which is indulged in too great an extent, but they have found out what alcohol's real value is as a drug, and that is, in my opinion at any rate, practically nil." Sir Victor then turned to a chart, which he had prepared and had hung on the wall, showing the decline in the use of alcohol and the increased use of milk in seven great London hospitals in the last 40 years. That showed what the medical profession in London, at any rate, was doing with regard to the use of alcohol as a drug. In London, alcohol was not being valued as a drug as it had been 40 years ago. The same was being proved with regard to the country. It had been a gradual evolution of action on the part of the profession in their use of alcohol as a drug. Personally he believed that the movement really began with the surgeons. It was no credit to them, but to the great man to whom they owed everything, Lord Lister, and was one of the innumerable benefits resulting from the discovery of the principles of antiseptic surgery.

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE PREMIUMS.

We append a list of some companies operating in San Francisco, showing premium income for first six months of the years 1904, 1905 and 1906, compiled by Pacific Underwriter:

Company.	Prem. to June 30, 1906	Prem. to June 30, 1905	Prem. to June 30, 1904
Aachen & Munich.....	\$ 18,716	\$27,731	\$32 883
Aetna.....	47 896	26,207	29,809
Agricultural.....	7,137	9,502	8,557
Alliance, London.....	*25,551	25,551	29,371
Alliance, Pa.....	10,218	8,218	
American, N. J.....	14,554	9,161	7,053
Atlas.....	23,317	20,705	28,063
Anstrian, Phoenix.....	11,475	22,022	21,078
British America.....	6,533	8,304	13,411
Caledonian.....	19,522	27,888	21,978
Commercial Union, London.....	*30,689	30,689	38,545
Connecticut.....	25,029	17,859	20,878
Continental.....	15,520	16,018	13,577
Colonial Underwriters.....	8,081	6,978	6,534
Firemans Fund.....	16,000	44,199	51,932
Federal.....	16,767		
Fire Association.....	13,714	14,842	19,643
Franklin.....	7,363	10,790	12,765
German American.....	19,630	24,192	29,157
Germania.....	15,035	25,830	29,002
German, Ill.....	16,631	27,566	30,332
Globe—Rutgers.....	10,344	5,469	2,909
Hanover.....	8,685	13,221	16,325
Home, N. Y.....	* 35,000	18,302	23,905
Home, F. & M.....	* 12,700	14,984	14,814
Hartford.....	34,552	37,933	45,698
Hamberg Bremen.....	30,526	30,720	42,604
Insurance Co. of North America.....	40,832	22,946	23,459
Law Union & Crown.....	5,105	10,653	9,040
Liverpool & London & Globe.....	108,350	30,525	39,040
London.....	61,403	47,559	68,032
London & Lancashire.....	41,395	41,438	60,431
Milwaukee Mechanics.....	6,155	15,523	18,290
National.....	11,883	20,371	19,969
Niagara.....	26,603	18,714	24,444
New York Underwriters.....	22,910	40,787	44,201
New Zealand.....	31,314	17,851	17,609
North British.....	41,442	23,868	26,819
Norwich Union.....	15,221	10,103	9,792
Northern.....	54,211	28,496	30,799
New Hampshire.....	10,299	4,179	3,582
Orient.....	6,447	8,208	7,919
Palatine.....	* 22,788	22,788	26,707
Phoenix, London.....	37,356	26,565	27,433
Phoenix of Brooklyn.....	42,143	37,854	37,352
Pennsylvania.....	22,952	27,938	36,374
Phoenix, Hartford.....	13,961	17,160	16,381
Providence Washington.....	9,700	7,910	6,265
Queen.....	23,632	14,153	17,580
Queen City.....	5,523		
Rochester German.....	4,248	5,310	7,849
Royal.....	92,360	47,563	50,818
Royal Exchange.....	15,926	35,411	51,588
Rhine & Moselle.....	18,874	32,357	35,360
Springfield.....	30,390	15,357	17,929
Scotch Union & National.....	19,138	11,963	15,510
Sun Insurance Office.....	34,724	21,864	28,723
Svea.....	14,573	12,562	14,055
Traders.....	11,238	34,609	41,256
Union, London.....	13,082	17,362	15,720
Westchester.....	* 10,000	8,697	10,305
Western.....	6,907	10,343	18,074

* Estimated as records were destroyed.

TOWN OF HAILEYBURY, ONT. CONFLAGRATION.

Practically the entire business portion of the Town of Haileybury was destroyed by fire at an early hour on the 21st instant. The loss is placed on a conservative estimate at \$150,000, and the insurance will total about \$75,000. The fire, which is believed to have been of incendiary origin, started in the rear of McCabe and Stinson's store short-