

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATION.—The proposed South Carolina bill seeking to make the arbitration clause in the standard policy inoperative is causing companies much concern. If adopted it will increase litigation and make it almost impossible to settle damage losses outside of the courts. The populistic element in the legislature is said to be particularly opposed to anything like concessions to corporations.

TO SUCCEED PAYN AS STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF INSURANCE.—The New York "Commercial Bulletin" of Tuesday last says:—A feature of the Senate tonight, which was crowded with spectators, was the sending in of the name of Francis Hendricks of Syracuse by Governor Roosevelt to succeed Louis F. Payn as State Superintendent of Insurance.

The nomination was referred to the Committee on Insurance.

MR. J. H. BREWSTER SAILS FOR ENGLAND.—Mr. J. H. Brewster, Assistant Manager of the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company of Edinburgh and of the Lion Fire Insurance Company of London, sailed for England on Saturday last on the "Campania." Mr. Brewster had been invited to go over after Manager Martin Bennett's death, but this was the first chance he has had since to make the trip. He expects to be back in Hartford within about a month.

BRITISH ARISTOCRACY AROUSED.—The four successive defeats in the Natal have aroused the fighting blood of the English, and the members of the aristocracy, as we had occasion to mention a few days ago, are dropping the pleasures of society and volunteering for service in the army. Ninety per cent. of the members of the Honorable Artillery Company of London have applied for service in South Africa, and more than two-thirds of the Inns of Court Volunteers, composed of barristers and solicitors, have likewise tendered their applications for active service in the field.

When everything is considered, the British government should be proud of the splendid support that is offered it. The London "Globe" remarks that the two organizations we have referred to are composed of London's best blood, men of affairs, business men and lawyers, for whom military service in South Africa means great business and financial sacrifice, to say nothing of the danger and hardship involved in fighting against such an enemy as the Boers have proved themselves to be. Notwithstanding this, the call for volunteers has been promptly and overwhelmingly answered from all parts of England and Scotland. The very moment the war assumed a grave aspect the whole nation ranged itself behind the government, prepared for any sacrifice. It takes defeat with a grim courage that must command admiration. There is cause for pride to Anglo-Saxons everywhere in the brave, determined, self-contained way the English people are now bearing themselves at a time when these qualities are being put to the severest test.—"American States."

THE FIRE KING.—Fire is the most complete and absolute destroyer with which mankind has to contend. There is nothing to property destroyed by flame but waste. The most imposing edifices, the most costly fabrics, the most artistic paintings are worthless ashes, to be scattered by the wind when swept by conflagration.—New York Telegram.

A NICE QUINTETTE.—An Indiana druggist and four of his clerks were arrested for a conspiracy to burn and blow up his drug store. The fire was discovered in its incipency, and after it was extinguished dynamite and powder were found to be placed where they would work the most destruction. Long fuses were attached to barrels of oil.

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