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Dwelling-House Fires. The destruction of dwelling-houses by fire constitutes a heavier percentage of the yearly fire loss than is generally known. "The Chronicle," New York, estimates that for a period of 19 years ending 1902, the fire loss on dwellings and boarding houses in the United States was \$358,119,711, caused by 469,476 fires. The average number of dwellings burned each year is about 50,000, or, 1,000 each week, which gives an average of 6 houses burnt every hour, day and night, continuously throughout the year.

Courses of Lectures on Insurance. During the current session of the London School of Economics and Political Science, 16 lectures on each of the following subjects will be given, viz., "Fire Insurance," "The Law of Fire Insurance and the Art of Drafting a Policy," "Fire Insurance Surveying," and "The Law of Accident Insurance." For each course a fee of £2.2.0, (\$8.50) is to be charged. At the Institute of Actuaries, London, a course of lectures has commenced, the first being on "The History of Life Assurance," the following ones will be, "The History of Mortality Tables."

Attendance at such courses of lectures can hardly fail to be exceedingly instructive, incomparably more so than listening to occasional papers on disjointed subjects. Insurance Institutes could not do their members a better service than arranging for courses of lectures on matters directly bearing on insurance questions, with monthly readings of papers having a wider range of subjects of an educational nature.

The Languages Spoken in Great Britain. The following does not speak favourably for the intelligence of American Congressmen. The "Argonaut" relates that, at the audience given by the congressmen who are visiting the Philippines to a delegation of Filipinos who argued that the islands should be given their independence:

"One speaker said that one reason advanced by the Americans for not granting the islands indepen-

dence was the lack of a common language, the natives speaking many dialects. He compared the Filipinos and their multitude of tribal tongues with the three languages spoken in Great Britain—English, Irish, and Scotch—saying that that nation had no difficulties in the matter of self-government."

The congressman ought to have included Welsh and Saxon in the list and so made five languages as "spoken in Great Britain," and as to dialects there are at least a dozen distinct ones. A local paper says, 60 languages are spoken in Winnipeg! There were a variety of dialects spoken in America when the United States established their independence.

Newfoundland Loans. The Lord's Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury in accordance with Section 2 of the "Colonial Stock Act, 1900," have announced that the

necessary steps to comply with the conditions laid down by the treasury under the Act have been taken by the Government of Newfoundland with respect to an issue of stock authorized by the Act No. 2 of 1905 of the Newfoundland Legislature, entitled an Act to provide for the raising of a sum of money, by loan for the telegraph service of the colony.

Messrs. Glyn, Mills, Currie & Company invite subscriptions for £390,500 3½ p.c. Inscribed Stock of the Government of Newfoundland at the price of 96 per cent. The proceeds of the issue will be applied in payment of the amount required under the Award of Arbitration for the Government system of telegraphs taken over from the Reid-Newfoundland Company, and in providing for further telegraph extension in the colony and cable connection with the Dominion of Canada, and expenses in connection with the Telegraph Award and costs incidental and necessary for the purposes of the loan. A letter from Mr. Bond, the Prime Minister, is quoted in the prospectus, giving particulars of the revenue and expenditure of the Newfoundland Government, and Mr. Bond concludes by stating that "the financial position of the colony is eminently satisfactory, and its material interests are steadily improving." The stock will constitute a trustee security, and as such gives the fairly high return of 3½ per cent.