

PERSONALS.

MR. C. CHEVALIER CREAM, general manager of the National Assurance Company, of Ireland, is in Montreal this week. He expects to remain some days on this side of the water.

MR. WALTER JONES, accountant of the Pelican and British Empire Life Office, has returned from England, where he spent a pleasant holiday.

MR. J. GORDON THOMPSON, resident manager, Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Co., has left for the Pacific Coast, to visit the agencies of his company. He expects to return to Montreal about the 1st June.

MR. JOHN G. BORTHWICK, secretary of the Caledonian Insurance Company, arrived in Montreal this week, per S.S. "Lake Erie, from the old country, where he had been spending a two months' holiday. Mr. Borthwick improved the shining hour during his absence from Canada by joining the ranks of the Benedicts. We wish him and Mrs. Borthwick all happiness and prosperity for the years to come.

MR. ERNEST RIDDELL PATERSON, B.A., Toronto, has been awarded the Rhodes scholarship which was at the disposal of the Toronto University. He is in his 23rd year, and will have £300 a year for maintenance during his residence at Oxford. Mr. Patterson has been filling a position in the office of the Imperial Life, and has given much attention to actuarial studies. We have every confidence in this brilliant young Canadian doing honour to his native country and to his Alma Mater by his career at Oxford.

MR. MATHEWSON, manager of the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, was in Winnipeg last week "en route" to British Columbia. To a Free Press Reporter, Mr. Mathewson said: "I have been absent for five years, and the impression conveyed to me of your city's wonderful progress is amazing. You, who are living here cannot see it as we visitors do. A look down your wholesale streets and the rapid advance taken in pavements, alone, shows the confidence reposed by business men and by every individual taxpayer in the future of Winnipeg. It does me good to see it, for you know I always carry a very warm spot in my heart for the city and never forget to express my faith in its eventual greatness when the right opportunities are to hand."

Notes and Items.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

LA BANQUE NATIONALE reports profits of last year as \$152,777.

THE SOVEREIGN BANK statement gives the last year's profits as \$119,760.

ACCIDENT BUSINESS ought to be helped this year by the extra passenger travelling caused by the St. Louis Fair.

THE ACCIDENT UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION will hold its 17th annual Convention at Portland, Maine, July 19th, 20th, 21st.

COST OF BEING EXAMINED.—From what has been disclosed in consequence of a dispute between the Wisconsin Superintendent of Insurance and the Prudential Insurance Co., we learn that the Company paid \$21,024 as costs of an official examination.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending May 19, 1904: clearings, \$20,644,099; corresponding week 1903, \$22,000,677; corresponding week 1902, \$22,269,350.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 12th May, 1904—Clearings, \$1,990,625; corresponding week last year, \$1,990,379.

THE WESTERN ASSURANCE CO., was registered on 7th ult., in London, England, to do a fire, marine and general assurance business (life insurance excepted), in Great Britain.

SUMMER HOTELS AND THE LIKE.—The summer hotel season is now open. How about the fire insurance in this class of buildings? A little inspection work would be timely just now.

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR AND LARGEST FRATERNAL SOCIETIES is being sharply criticized by American journals, owing to the insufficiency, by a considerable sum of receipts from its assessments to cover the current claims. The deficit is stated to be about 50 per cent.

FIRE BROKE OUT RECENTLY in St. Peter's Church, Ruthvin, Eng., owing to children playing with matches. "The floor," says the "Observer," was soon alight from one end to the other," which, we beg to say, it would not have been had the wood been fireproofed.

A SIGN OF NORTHWEST DEVELOPMENT.—A circular is before us, offering for sale an hotel in Manitoba, about 80 miles from Winnipeg, the profits of which are declared to be \$7,000 a year. There is said to be stabling for 120 horses. The whole region around was held only a few years ago by Indians and half-breeds.

CHIEF AITCHESON, OF HAMILTON, says over 60 per cent. of the fires in that city are of incendiary origin, and that the insured were the cause of more than one-half of such fires. A statement of this nature ought not to be made so loosely. If the chief knows of any specific fire being of incendiary origin, it ought to be investigated.

TAKE OUT AN ACCIDENT POLICY.—Mr. Krener, manager at Philadelphia, is invalidated by injuries sustained by being struck by a trolley car. If insurance men meet with such accidents, what chance have other persons to escape? Be advised in time. Our streets never were so dangerous to pedestrians as they are at present.

OBJECT LESSON TO STOREKEEPERS.—A St. Louis wholesale firm has issued a circular to its retail customers advising them to keep adequately insured. A case is given of one retailer being recently burnt out, who, on a stock of \$33,000 carried only \$12,000 insurance, so the fire changed a prosperous, solvent merchant into a desponding bankrupt.

BRITISH AMERICA AND WESTERN.—In giving a statement as to the proposed issue of new stock by these companies, "The Spectator," N.Y., says: "It is to be hoped that with their valuable connections and good-will, together with the fairer rates that are likely to attain hereafter these staunch old Canadian companies will enjoy a favourable future."

THE MINERAL PRODUCTIONS of the United States in 1902, are given by the Census Office report, as amounting in value to \$796,826,417. The salaries, wages and other outlays involved in operating the mines amounted to about \$625,000,000. In the list of products coal is down for 297 millions of tons; copper, 639 millions of tons; iron ore 35½ million tons; petroleum 89 millions of barrels. There are over 600,000 persons regularly at work in American mines, whose wages average about \$2 per day.