

The Eaton Fire Suits.

We are informed that the decision given in the suit of the Bank of Toronto against the Quebec Fire Insurance Company will not affect the position of other Companies interested in the Eaton fire. The appeal of the Quebec Insurance Co. is not likely to obtain a hearing until next autumn.

The next suit in connection with this same fire is that against the Keystone Co., and Chief Justice Meredith has removed the case from head of jury list to the foot of non-jury list.

Efforts are being made to restore the suit to its original position, with a view to trial during the present term of Court. In defence of the moral risks attending all insurance, it would seem to be well that the Insurance Companies now engaged in this fight for what they consider right should contest the various points involved as vigorously as possible.

Free Insurance.

A capital bit of testimony to the unexpected relief so frequently furnished by insurance is given in the following report in the Insurance Post. It will also serve as an example, to Canadian merchants and Companies selling furniture, pianos, organs and all things on the hire-purchase system, of fair dealing, and show them a way by which they can make their business attractive to people of limited means:—

An interesting and pathetic little story, showing the hire-purchase system in a new light, has just been unfolded to Mr. Cluer, the North London magistrate at Dalston. A Mrs. Dutton appeared before the magistrate in considerable distress, stating that her husband had died suddenly after paying only £3 or £4 on goods to the value of between £20 and £30, which he had purchased on the hire system from the Hackney Furnishing Company. Mrs. Dutton was afraid that the goods might be taken from her and her children, and appealed to the magistrate for advice.

The magistrate requested Mr. Holmes, the court missionary, to look into the matter, and the missionary was at once told by the Hackney Furnishing Company that in this case, as in every other, the property belonged to the widow entirely, the sale of the goods being accompanied by a free insurance policy on the life of the purchaser. A receipt in full discharge of the money unpaid was handed to the widow, and was produced in court to Mr. Cluer, who expressed much pleasure at the position of affairs which was thus disclosed.

Public Secrets and Public Servants. If there is a modicum of truth in the statement made in one of the United States papers that state secrets have been on sale in Wall Street, during the recent epidemic of war rumours, there is good reason for the indignation expressed against the suspected members of Congress.

Domestic servants have been known to obtain possession of family secrets and make their knowledge a source of revenue. But it is to the credit of all nations that very few instances are recorded of the representatives of the people making the honour and

safety of a nation the subject for speculation and the means of personal pecuniary gain.

The following paragraph from *Leslie's Weekly* refers boldly to what it calls a national scandal:—

The public manner in which state secrets from Washington have been hawked around Wall street during the war scare is little less than a national scandal, and the public appearance in Washington of brokers from Wall street, who have heretofore been identified with notorious transactions in sugar trust and other stocks, has not served to allay suspicion regarding the direct connection which is said to exist between official circles at Washington and the stock exchange. There is no doubt that a great many members of Congress have been more interested in what they could make out of the war scare by operations in Wall street than in their devotion to public duty. For years the speculative tendency has been developed among officials at Washington, and the discussions of the tariff, of the Venezuelan question, of the silver question, and now of the Spanish imbroglio, have afforded rare opportunities to certain public officials at Washington to speedily accumulate fortunes by gambling in stocks.

THE VOICE OF WAR.

Slow wakes the voice of war, but, when it wakes,
It comes upon the ear as the loud wail
Of murdered spirits.
Slowly it comes ;—but in that voice is woe,
And anguish and despair.

(ANON.)

William McKinley, as a soldier with undying memories of South Mountain, Antietam, Winchester and a dozen other fierce engagements in which when a mere boy of eighteen he fought side by side with his youthful comrades of the 23rd Ohio Regiment, has no desire for war.

But William McKinley, as President of the United States of America, will now probably accept the decision of Senate and Congress and enter upon a war which a large multitude of his countrymen regard as wholly indefensible.

However, as a wise and thoughtful ruler, a man of good judgment and cool courage, as a stalwart champion for the peace and prosperity of his country, William McKinley, soldier and President, will be remembered long after the madness of those who have precipitated the coming struggle has become an occasional subject for regret among future writers of history. In the closing days of his gallant effort to preserve peace, he was not without support. Above the bugle blast in Congress and Senate, the nation has heard the brave and manly utterances of Senator Hoar, and of Loud of California. For the homely and truthful eloquence of the former no one will have aught but admiration:—

"I do not believe," he said, "the world is made better by the loss of a boy. I do not like what follows war, the piling up of thousands of millions of public