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Old Time
Debtor's Prisons. Here is a copy of a bill, quite a fair specimen, showing what it cost a man to be in prison for debt in the good old days:

	£	s.	d.
For 4 surrenders at Judges' Chambers.....	9	11	6
To the tipstaff, 4 fees.....	2	2	0
To the warden.....	16	12	0
The previous fee for turning into the house.....	10	10	0
For occasional liberty to leave the prison.....	6	6	0
Total (\$225).....	£45	1	6

The debtor was charged for the privilege of entering the jail, charged for being brought before a judge, charged for being allowed a few hours' run outside, and charged for support of the officials! These officials realized large incomes; they made the prisoners provide them with wines and other luxuries on pain of punishment. The prison fees on the debtor leaving, after the creditor was satisfied, were as large that hundreds were kept in jail for years awaiting the time when they could pay these fees! Yet some there are who sigh over the past times as better days than the present.

Insuring Bank Deposits. A proposal is made to organize a scheme for insuring bank deposits. The scheme is an American one which has been suggested by the frequent failures of banks in the United States. Whether the insurance is proposed to be effected by depositors individually, or by each bank, or by a combination of banks is not stated. The insurance of individual deposits could not have any effect upon the general credit of the banks as the extent of such insurance would be unknown. Single banks would find it difficult to secure insurance of their deposits, the risk would be regarded as too uncertain, too obscure to be undertaken without more knowledge than banks would care to impart. Were all the banks comprised within the organization of a State Bankers'

Association to join in a scheme for insurance the deposits of each institution in the State, such a scheme might be operated, but it would not be popular with the stronger banks as they would naturally dislike paying premiums towards strengthening the credit of rival banks of whose methods they disapproved, and of whose weakness they were aware. The insurance of bank deposits is best provided for by sagacious and prudent management.

The New York "Commercial Auditing Insurance Bulletin" has been moved to **Company Accounts.** great plainness of speech respecting the auditing of the accounts of insurance companies.

"The recent embezzlement bids fair to make the home offices of British fire companies wake up and either force an improvement in the present ineffective methods used in auditing accounts at their American branches or else drop public auditors altogether. The average 'certified public accountant' or 'chartered accountant' may be a very good man to foot up a column of figures, but his fire insurance wisdom is limited to a facial expression of knowledge, which is only skin deep. At present the auditing system costs money and never seems to discover anything. The officers of American companies are inclined to poke fun at auditors; first, because they do not appear to be of any service in either preventing or detecting insurance defalcations and, secondly, because of the important airs they display in parading around an insurance office. A poor auditor is worse than none, as he engenders an unwarranted feeling of security which prevents the adoption of other safeguards which might really be of some value. The latest incident, coming after so many similar happenings, should bring about a drastic reform in fire insurance auditing methods."

For all concerned it is desirable to have accounts audited with the utmost completeness and efficiency.