

the cases, the Royal Exchange Corporation appears to have acted with the greatest propriety, throwing no obstacles in the way of the several claimants, except such as were absolutely necessary to exclude any 'bogus' element from the adventures. That the publicity given to the first trial led to the second and third claimants coming forward is hardly open to doubt, and it is quite within the range of possibility that there will be further manifestations, some of which may be of the Arthur Orton type, and, therefore, it is to be hoped that the attitude of vigilance will be maintained. It must not be supposed, however, that all this large fund is of ancient standing, the larger portion consists, probably, of fluctuating balances of uncalled-for dividends left by easy-going proprietors in the safe-keeping of an old and wealthy institution.—*London Insurance Post*.

Mr. A. W. Dodd of Moncton, N.B., who has for some years acted as Special Agent and Adjuster of the Western Assurance Company for the Maritime Provinces, has been appointed General Agent of the above Company for the United States. This is a move in the right direction, and one which we venture to predict will be found profitable for the Western. Mr. Dodd is a hardworking, able and enterprising Underwriter, a good adjuster, and his genial and straightforward disposition will make him a favorite across the line.

OBITUARY RECORD.

Mr. James Davison, Manager of the Royal Canadian Insurance Company.—It is with much regret we record the demise of Mr. James Davison, which took place in this city on the 25th of December ult., at the age of 69 years and 7 months. It will be remembered that he got a stroke of paralysis some ten days prior to his death.

Mr. Davison was a native of Bedford, England; he came to this country about the year 1850, and remained in Quebec a couple of years. He was Manager of the Montreal Agency of the Phoenix Fire Insurance Company of London for twenty-six years, and about five years ago he became manager of the Royal Canadian. He preserved an unblemished reputation throughout his official career, was an able, efficient and conservative underwriter; a worthy, honorable, unobtrusive and conscientious man. Mr. Davison did good work for the Royal Canadian, and we wish there were more underwriters as careful and conservative in the Dominion.

He was for a number of years an office-bearer in Cotté street Presbyterian Church. His bereaved family have our sincere sympathy.

IN MEMORIAM.

We record with regret the death of **Mr. Francis Homan Berry**, of congestion of the lungs, on the 6th inst., at Toronto.

Mr. Berry came to this country in '72 from Dublin, which was his native city, and where for some time he acted as assistant-secretary in the head office of the "*National Assurance Company of Ireland*." In Canada he was employed as Inspector, successively, in the Liverpool, and London and Globe, "*Stadacona*," "*Ottawa Agricultural*," and "*Quebec*" Insurance Companies, and latterly in the "*Royal Canadian*" and "*British America*" at Toronto.

Intelligent, warm-hearted, and generous, he made friends of all with whom he came in contact. The failings of his life are buried with him; we can remember of him only pleasant things—kind words and deeds that can never be forgotten.—A kindly face is indeed gone forever—an honest heart stilled—he sleeps his last sleep!

COMMUNICATIONS.

All communications to be addressed to the Editor, INSURANCE SOCIETY, and correspondence to bear the name and address of the author, not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The publication of a communication does not by any means commit the paper to the sentiments expressed there in; but a fair hearing will be allowed for all sides of the question we may consider of sufficient interest to the Insurance public.

TORONTO LETTER.

DEAR EDITOR,

The great libel suit is over! Citizens Insurance Co. versus "Budget" et al., verdict for "Citizens" Co.

Not the visit of Lord Lansdowne to our city, nor the late Royal Canadian Yacht Club ball has stirred us up half as much as this interesting and exciting case. For four days, from Thursday the 10th to Monday the 14th inst., has the case been on, and during that period every insurance man in Toronto of any note whatever has visited the Court room at least once. And once in, there was such a fascination about the proceedings that it was difficult to tear one's self away, until the Court rose—that is Judge Rosé. Such a turning up of the affairs of an Insurance Co. has not occurred for many a day in public. General Manager Hart was in the witness box from 11 o'clock of one day until four p. m. of the next. It must be allowed that he gave his answers with excellent discretion. Too much inclined, perhaps, to branch off and make speeches, as the Defendant's counsel said, but that was an advantage, and for his Company's interest after all. There was plenty of fun mixed in with the business going on. More than once, judge, jury, counsel, witnesses and audience were provoked to laugh at Manager Hart's smart sayings. The display of legal talent was immense, and the pithy remarks and scintillations of wit were abounding. There was a trunk full of books and papers, bags of legal documents, statements from this one and that one "under oath" circulars, letters, etc., etc. The Counsel's table was piled high with the materials of war—offensive and defensive. Talk of your Ice Palace and Winter Carnival, as a sensation! I can assure you this suit has outshone you in the way of a winter entertainment, for we have combined instruction with our amusement.

If you don't get a libel suit on your hands before long, I shall think you do not amount to much, and are too slow.

Why the *Budget* now, without any pretension as to representing the blue-blooded aristocracy of the Canadian Insurance World, has had two suits already—a summer and a winter one, so to speak. Surely you can do as well. Certainly you did your best, perhaps, in the *Standard* case, but there was no metal in your opponent. I seriously believe that after this the *Budget* will have a boom that will astonish us. What have you to set off against their enterprise? True you made a point in the *Standard* case, and barked up the right tree, but there is a large notoriety and prominence to be gained in a libel suit—even a lost one (when the libel, as in this case, is not such a wicked and monstrous one after all), that is of great value, if properly made use of. It is an art to extract benefits from your misadventures. Look at Chicago Society, and take a lesson from that brilliant western city. For a lady, there, to have been *once* divorced is to become a mark of exceeding interest, but to have brought it about twice, whilst still young and interesting, is to rise in the social scale to an elevation simply sublime.

Get a libel suit on by all means. If you back me up I can arrange the preliminaries in a jiffy. Take this all in good part—it is the advice of a friend. As your correspondent, too, I do not like to see rival journals outshine you.

The verdict in favor of the "Citizens" has occasioned much comment. All the insurance "experts" called in on behalf of the *Budget* were obviously not in favor of the Company, and one or two displayed