

fit is under age; nor even when all are of age unless all the parties concur as provided by a fresh amendment to sec. 7 of the Act.

### INSURANCE NOTES.

The Equitable Life Assurance Society has sent the following instructions to its Charleston agent: "In view of the peculiar suffering entailed by the earthquake, please inform any of the friends of our policy-holders who may have been lost that we are prepared to pay such losses immediately and without undue formality. Give all policy holders sixty days' grace on payments of premiums."

This is what the *Insurance Chronicle* has to say of the brochure called "Industrial Gems," and bearing the imprint of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, of New York. "It is as full of good things as fine editing, fine type and fine printing can make it. The book will just fit everybody's pocket, and the facts and advice which it contains will fit almost everybody's case. Its handsome pages compel perusal and no one can peruse it without being convinced of the great value of industrial insurance, which plan of insurance the Metropolitan has done and is doing so much to develop in this country."

It is looked upon as a matter for congratulation by the *Quebec Chronicle* that the head office for Canada of the London and Provincial Marine Insurance Company has been located in that city. The company has a capital of £1,000,000 sterling and will be under the supervision of Mr. Owen Murphy, as attorney and president manager for the Dominion. It is proposed to establish agencies in all the principal Canadian sea port towns.

A prominent policy-holder in a large company says this concerning life insurance: "I like life insurance because it has compelled me to save my money. Always a free liver, earning and receiving a good salary, the end of the year always found me about even with the world. Some years ago I was induced to take out an endowment policy on my life. I entered into the scheme with some doubts and misgivings as to my ability to meet the premiums; but to my surprise I found that, with but little appreciable effort, I was able to meet my premiums as they fell due, and I therefore consider myself indebted to life insurance for the handsome endowment policy I now hold, now considerably more than half paid up. The money paid for premiums has been actually saved, for from my previous experience I knew my salary would have all been spent in other directions had I not diverted a part for this purpose."—*Coast Review*.

A Wyoming Territory paper says that insurance rates there are at such a figure that it is about as cheap to burn out as to insure.

The following letter was received by the Missouri State Insurance department. The writer was desirous of representing a notorious "wild-cat" company called the Mutual Life Stock Association: "Will you please inform me if I have the right to work the Live Stock Mutual in this state do we have to comply with the insurance laws of the State. I have not worked it any yet if I have not got the right to work it will you please get me a situation at the State-house and oblige, etc." If the *Investigator* is not joking the superintendent secured him a situation on a St. Louis newspaper.

A new life insurance company is projected for New York city. It is to bear the name of the American Union Life and several respon-

sible names are attached to its preliminary notice.

The Royal Insurance Company of Liverpool made a present of \$25,000 to its late London Secretary on the occasion of his retirement after nearly forty years' service.

One of the French life insurance companies, the Phenix of Paris, which insured the life of the consumptive king of Spain, and paid the amount of the policy without dispute, has recently successfully defended in the courts a claim made by the heirs of a physician named Boyson, on the ground that he omitted to mention in his application for the insurance, that he was ill with rheumatism eight years previous to the making of the application. The French papers, including the *Gazette des Assurances*, strongly condemn the actions of the company in contesting the Boyson claim, contrasting that action with the company's course in the matter of King Alphonso, where there was an advertisement to be gained, and warn French companies that they cannot successfully compete with the Equitable, New York Life and other foreign companies doing business in France, if this illiberal policy continues to be pursued.—*Weekly Underwriter*.

### TELEGRAPH EXTENSION.

We have already made brief reference to the competing system of telegraphy which is extending in various parts of the United States and has connections in Canada. The system in the States is named the Postal, and its cable connection is with the Mackey-Bennett cable. Since we last wrote, the following additional information about this important organization has been promulgated.

Mr. Henry Rosener, vice-president of the Postal Telegraph Co., and superintendent of construction, has been some time in British Columbia. His business was that of arranging to build the Pacific Coast division of a new telegraph system which is to extend from the C. P. R. terminus at Vancouver to San Francisco. Its route will be through Washington Territory, Oregon and California. Connection is to be made at San Francisco with the telegraph system of the Baltimore and Ohio Co., in the United States which is already extensive.

The line from the town of Vancouver is to be carried to the coast and a cable laid across the Strait of Georgia to the cities of Victoria and Esquimalt on the Island of Vancouver. Thence, if the route should be found, to be feasible, by a survey now being made, the line will be carried down the shore to Race Rocks and across the straits into Washington Territory.

The Commercial Cable Co., and its feeder the Postal Telegraph Cable Co., have, we are told, concluded contracts with the Canadian Pacific Co., for exclusive interchange of business. The wire of the latter through Canada, or at least from Quebec to Vancouver, which covers the extent of its railway line, is to be a good one. Associated in the venture with the companies named is a number of gentlemen on the Pacific Coast. And the result of the contract mentioned and the constructions now proceeding is expected to be that, by the first of January, 1887, or at any rate by the spring of the year, a line of telegraph will be opened for traffic, in competition with the Western Union Co., in the United States, and the Great North Western Co., in Canada. The new lines will connect New York, San Francisco, Montreal, Chicago and Victoria. The copper lines of the Postal Co., between New York and

Chicago and between Washington and New York are among the best in the world, and the effort will be made to have their connecting lines satisfactorily constructed.

Already the building of a telegraph line is begun from New York to near Morristown in the State of New York, opposite Brockville. To meet this, we understand, that the Canadian Pacific line is erecting wires which shall connect with its system in the Dominion. Besides this, the purpose of the C. P. R. is said to be to extend its telegraph wires at an early day to St. John, Halifax and other points in the Maritime Provinces. The Postal Co., is to have a line from Salt Lake City via Helena and Fort Benton, Montana, to connect with the C. P. R. at a point near Medicine Hat in the North-West territories.

That the system above described will be a thorn in the side of the Western Union Telegraph Company is tolerably plain. Its effect will probably be to reduce the price of telegraphy in the States generally, though rates have for some time been low between important business centres. Correspondence by wire is already so cheap in Canada, with her 15 and 25 cents day rate and her lesser night rate, that no reasonable pretext exists for cutting rates. But the public always welcomes an opposition boat, or an opposition railway, or an opposition telegraph, and so it will get business. Then, again, the numerous class whose gratitude consists in a lively sense of favors to come, will welcome the new arrival. If it shall come about that the telegraph service in Canada—already good as a rule, surprisingly so, indeed, when distances and difficulties are considered—is rendered more effective by the new combination, the public will get the benefit, whether stockholders do or not.

### SURETYSHIP.

Judgment has just been delivered by the Ontario Court of Appeal in two suits brought by the Exchange Bank against the sureties of Mr. Murray, late cashier of that institution. The decision was in favor of the bank on all the points raised, some of which are of an interesting character.

Apart from the contention set up, that there had been no misappropriation of the bank's funds by their absconding officer, as to which the Court held otherwise on the evidence, the material defence relied on by the sureties appears to have been, that the bank by making use of the cashier to carry on speculation out of the regular course of banking business, and by alleged illegal dealings in its own stock, released the sureties from liability. It was further urged that the authorities of the bank, by continuing the cashier in their employment after they knew, or ought to have known, that he was in default, and that he was engaged in reckless speculation on his own account, relieved the sureties from their obligation under the bond.

As to the alleged illegal and irregular dealings, the transactions relied upon by the defence were, the alleged illegal purchasing from time to time by the bank through Murray, of its own stock, and the speculation by the bank in Montreal Telegraph Company stock, which, it is alleged, was wrongfully purchased from time to time on the bank's behalf with the view of improperly affecting the market price of the stock, in which the bank was interested. The court declined to express any opinion upon the legality of the dealings in these respects, but held that they could not, under the evidence, be said to have any