

of Mr. Chas Sterling, manager and cashier of the New York Life branch in this city. It is with deep regret I learn that he has been ordered by his physician to California. If after a short stay in California he is able to commence work again, I hope he will find no difficulty in procuring satisfactory employment in some insurance company. I feel certain that any agency securing his services will find in him a valuable and reliable young man, whether for inside work or for attention to the agency department.

I noted recently the fact that the Equitable Life was moving into the first flat in the new Jones Building. The offices there are tastefully and elegantly fitted up, besides being very cheerful and thoroughly well adapted for its purposes. The company has the advantage of windows possessing the best advertising point in the city of Toronto. On the flat above them, the name of the London Guarantee & Accident company now appears, and it is understood that that institution will be located there, shortly moving from the corner of Victoria and Adelaide, where it has been for some years. The tendency of the insurance companies and banks appears to be in the direction of King st.

I learn that Mr. A. T. McCord, manager of the afore-mentioned company, who has been confined to his house with a serious illness for some weeks, is considerably better; in the meantime, the interests of the company are being looked after by Mr. Richardson.

All the members of the insurance profession have extended their sympathy to the well known and respected Mr. Henry Lye, for the great loss he has lately sustained in the death of a daughter from typhoid fever, who was taken off after some weeks illness at the interesting age of twenty-one years.

Mr. Alf. Jones, of the well known firm of Medland & Jones, fire agents, has returned from Kentucky, where he has been the last two months. He looks remarkably well, and, judging from the way he is hustling around after business, he is evidently determined to make up speedily for his absence.

In all new ventures there are usually difficulties to be overcome, but judging from the promised support that Mr. A. W. Dodds is receiving in the establishment of an adjustment bureau, I think he will have few difficulties to overcome in making his enterprise a great success and a decided benefit to the fire companies. Mr. Dodds was for many years superintendent of agencies for the Western Fire in this city. In that capacity he proved a most thoroughly capable man, and in resigning his position, carried with him not only the respect but also the best wishes of all those with whom he had been connected.

The suit over the Skinner fire loss was set down for trial at the Assizes this week, but I just learn it has been postponed till the next term. It appears that the first suit was that of the Connecticut, but this was withdrawn, as the case was settled by that company on the same satisfactory basis as that of the Western and others. It appears this insurance was placed by the Hamilton agent, Mr. Routh, but, after the loss, wired the company that it would be adjusted together with the other companies he represented. This telegram was received in the absence of the Secretary, Mr. Burt, and was not placed before him on his return to Hartford, hence the reason that company allowed it to go to suit. The telegram subsequently being found among some other papers, Mr. Burt wired, confirming the action of their agent as well as the settlement referred to. I deem it only justice that special reference should be made to the action of this excellent company, as some of our daily papers here have inadvertently stated that this company was contesting the loss. At the same time, I have no doubt the other companies who are defending their cases are fully justified in doing so.

If the market price of fire insurance stocks can be taken as a criterion of the success of the year's work, I should say that the Western and British America are both doing remarkably well, as their stocks are quoted 20 to 30 points above what they were at the beginning of this year.

Some of the life agents who are doing a little rebating just now are hugging themselves with the belief that they are safe from prosecution for the present, as the penalty in the Act will scarcely be enforced until after the close of this year; however, they may as well understand, that they are being closely watched, and some time in January some of them will be brought up with a very sharp turn. I quite agree in the action being taken by some of the more respectable agents, who are determined to see that the law against rebating is enforced, and it may be satisfactory to them to learn that they have the best wishes of our excellent Insurance Supr. J. Howard Hunter, and also those of

P. B. P.

TORONTO, Nov. 25th, 1892.

## OUR LONDON LETTER.

Editor INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE:—

Another life company, which has for many years past led a slumbering kind of existence, has just manifested signs that the period of hibernation is passed, and that activity is to replace apathy. I refer to the Economic Life, a long established and highly respectable institution, and one whose special features, even in its condition of torpor, attracted attention. Low premiums to which no disability is attached as in the case of the Scottish Provident, and good bonuses which were allotted, and *vested*, at each quinquennial investigation, distinguished the Economic among its competitors; and it was the subject of frequent remark that its managers did not know their own strength. But at last they have issued a new prospectus in which a decidedly progressive policy is indicated. Alterations and additions have been made, which place it in the first rank of its competitors as regards liberal treatment of, and substantial benefits to, policyholders. The improvements in practice have no absolute novelty about them, but with the features above named, they are such as will make the office a formidable rival to compete with.

The Law Life office, to which I recently referred as having shown unmistakable indications of activity and progress, has added another feature to its prospectus, significant in my opinion of the present tendency of life assurance legislation. The office has recognized the demand of the public for cheaper life assurance, and following the example of the Clergy Mutual, the London Life and a few others has issued a table for profit assurances at reduced annual payments for life. The premiums are 4-5ths of the ordinary rates, the remaining 1-5th with compound interest at 5 per cent. being a first charge upon the policy, which charge is to be liquidated in whole or in part by the application of bonuses. Neither the assured nor his representatives are to be personally liable for this charge, the policy moneys being the sole security.

### GERMAN STATE INSURANCE.

Some time ago I referred to the scheme for old age and sickness assurance that had been legalized by the German Parliament. Since then various rumors have been current as to the failure of the scheme, which it seems gives satisfaction to neither the government nor the working classes. In confirmation of these rumors, an article has appeared in the *Economic Journal*, evidently from the pen of a man who writes both authoritatively and thoughtfully on the subject. From his statements I gather, that the chief cause of the failure of the scheme is "simulation," or, as it is otherwise called, "malingering." The latter term is not unknown in connection with military service, and the symptom is dealt with by the military authorities in a drastic manner, which serves at any rate to minimize its appearance. But the German workman is a civilian to whom no such treatment could be legally applied. The civilian malingeringer or "shammer" therefore is the bugbear of the German officials appointed to administer the State insurance law. Upon unquestionable authority, it is stated that sickness is shammed most during the winter, when work is not so plentiful, and when the wages which the strongest and healthiest man can earn are little in excess of the allowance from the insurance fund. In the accident section it appears also that some men will most deliberately incur injuries for the purpose of obtaining the settled compensation, and of mulcting the employer as far as possible; for the socialist leaders, who are especially active in Germany against the holders of capital, are found to be to a large extent the instigators of this line of conduct among the employed. It is said that the cleverest malingeringers are found to be connected with the trade associations, and also that in the hospitals administered by the officials of the sick fund, some person is always present, prepared and commissioned to instruct new comers in the art of simulation. The checks that have been hitherto devised for the purpose of coping with this system of imposture have hitherto proved both useless and costly.

### NEW COMPANIES

are still being promoted for the purpose of developing the