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Too Much Johnson. The Bradda Head mystery has furnished columns of reading matter for insurance men and others, and the case is not buried yet. Although a British jury very promptly proclaimed a want of belief in the drowning of Thomas Johnson, the French insurance press are said to have seized upon the incident as a weapon wherewith to attack the American life companies. Referring to the verdict of the jury being in favour of the Mutual Life, one French paper says:—

"The court gave a verdict for the billionaire company. Thus remains still unresolved for the policyholders of the Mutual Life this question: "How can the death of a man be proved who is drowned in the open sea and has been eaten by sharks?"

To which serious question, we regret to observe, a Chicago contemporary flippantly and unkindly replies in a reminder to the Frenchmen that the verdict was not rendered by the billionaire company, but by "level-headed Englishmen," and then adds as a parting shot: "Sharks off the Isle of Man! Rats!" We trust this exchange of pleasantries will not lead to another international difficulty. Since the Bradda Head boating mystery has been unravelled in a court of law, we have had altogether too much Johnson.

Great Expectations. Some of the United States insurance journals are already indulging in pleasant dreams of a great increase in business, when the islands of Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines enjoy the "protection" of the stars and stripes. That the introduction of good government, education and sanitation will stimulate the commercial growth of the new American possessions goes without saying; but we venture to think it will be many years before the life or property of the ordinary Cuban or Malay will be regarded as a good risk. Perhaps, the Queen of the Antilles will refuse to be reconciled to the reign of law and order which her new master talks of inaugurating. At all events, the insurance agent is not likely to make hay in the Spanish West Indies—at present.

Grand International Fire Congress. The many suggestions made for a big meeting (during the Paris Exhibition of 1900) of the firemen of the world have resulted in a determination to hold what will be called a grand International Fire Congress and Exhibition. The programme embraces a tournament, with very valuable prizes for competing brigades, and an exhibition of the engines and fire-fighting apparatus of all nations. The Duke of Marlborough and district presidents of fire brigades have promised to attend, and the success of the meeting is already virtually assured. One of the largest buildings in Paris has been secured, and the intention is to entertain the firemen selected to represent each country competing at the tournament with free board and lodging.

The French Government has promised the utmost assistance to the scheme, and the firemen will doubtless prove to be one of the most attractive features of the great Paris Exhibition of 1900.

A Wall from Wall Street. The banks, trust companies and business houses of Wall Street have been shaken to their very foundations. Their complaints are many and various, and have been embodied in a petition wherein they pray to the President of the Council that such ordinances may be enacted as will give them relief. The representatives of the money power object to walking in slippery places, and they dislike consorting with apostles of noise. The pain and distress of Wall Street is occasioned, to quote from the petition, by "an almost continuous line of so-called 'push-carts' from which are sold bananas, oranges and many other varieties of fruits." The presence of these Gothamitic costermongers with their push-carts appears to tempt brokers and to cause a great excess in bananas, and on complaints of Wall Street being "skinned," and thereby rendered unsightly, unhealthy, and dangerous. The consumption of this fruit by the frequenters of Wall Street may be judged by the statement of the complainants that "the pavement is frequently blocked."