

Insurance Items.

AT A RECENT MEETING OF THE CIVIC FIRE COMMITTEE, Chief Tremblay was asked whether he had anything new to report about possible decreases in insurance rates. Chief Tremblay replied he was working in harmony with the Fire Underwriters, who he thought had no cause for complaint against the brigade during the past year. He hoped to be able shortly to present to the committee a report showing what the department was doing for the congested districts of the city by way of special inspection of buildings, etc.

IMPORTANT AGENCY DEPARTMENT CHANGES by the Sun Life include the transference of Mr. W. A. Higinbotham from Philadelphia to head office, where he will hold the position of Inspector of British, American and Foreign Agencies. Mr. J. W. Simpson has been promoted to be inspector of Domestic Agencies, and will have supervision over Michigan and Newfoundland also. Mr. F. G. Cope, recently appointed assistant secretary, will retain the title of superintendent of agencies, and continue to exercise a general supervision over the department.

THE MERCHANTS FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF TORONTO, will apply to the Ontario legislature next session for an act to divide the authorized capital stock, amounting to \$500,000, into 10,000 shares of the par value of \$50 each, by reducing the par value of the old shares from \$100 a share to \$50 a share; and to provide that of the twenty-five per cent. called and paid up on the old shares, one-half be written off and placed in a reserve fund to the credit of the company.

THERE IS CLAMOUR FOR STILL FURTHER REDUCTION in fire insurance rates on account of New York city's high-pressure water system. However, the companies point to the circumstance of considerably greater water damage having to be taken into account since the installation of the new system. Even undoubted advantages are apt to entail some disadvantages upon this mundane sphere.

THERE WERE 110 FIRES in Montreal during January, as compared with 108 in the same month of 1908. Only two caused serious loss of property, that which gutted one-half the Royal Arthur School, Workman Street, January 18, and the blaze that gutted the interior of the Comet automobile works, Jurors street, January 28.

ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL policy forms ever issued by an insurance company has been sent to U. S. agents of the North British and Mercantile in celebration of its centennial, and is printed in four colors with elaborate designs.

AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING of the Executive Committee of the Life Underwriters' Association of Canada, it was decided that the next autumn's convention in Toronto will be held during the period of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition.

BUILDING INSPECTOR CHAUSSÉ has recommended to the Civic Fire Committee that more stringent regulations be enforced against moving-picture theatres.

THE QUEBEC LINER, "KORONA" suffered from fire recently en route from the West Indies to New York.

THE MEMORY of one of the pioneer insurance men of Canada, the late Mr. J. T. Pennock, of Ottawa, was honoured at a recent meeting of the Life Underwriters' Association of Ottawa, in a resolution put to the meeting by President R. H. Haycock, and unanimously passed by the members present.

THE GREAT WEST LIFE has purchased a site for a new head office building at the corner of Lombard and Rorie Streets, Winnipeg—across the road from the new Grain Exchange. Erection of a reinforced concrete building for the company's own use will be begun early in the spring.

THE UNITED STATES BRANCH of the Ocean Accident, which has been so long located at 346 Broadway, announces that it will, on May 1, remove to the new Jameson and Frelinghuysen Building, at the corner of John and William streets, New York.

THE ORGANIZATION OF INSURANCE CLUBS appears to be in the order of the day in New York. The latest club to be organized is the Casualty and Surety Social Club, which has been formed with 137 members with Mr. Edmund Dwight, of the Employers' Liability, as president.

THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC has dismissed the case of Abraham Dupere vs. London & Lancashire Life—holding that the insurance policy upon the life of Dorothee Dupere was obtained upon false statements made with fraudulent intent.



CALENDARS RECENTLY RECEIVED.

GAULT & EWING, Insurance Agents, Montreal, favour THE CHRONICLE with an exceedingly tasteful calendar—a reproduction of Boileau's famed painting "Margaret."

THE LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE AND THE MANITOBA insurance companies issue calendars of businesslike directness, the figures showing up unusually clearly.

THE LAKE OF THE WOODS MILLING COMPANY's handsomely lithographed calendar gives views of mills and elevators at Keewatin and Portage la Prairie.

THE CONNECTICUT FIRE's calendar is simplicity itself—but not the less attractive and useful for that.

U. H. DANDURAND's real estate agency issues a calendar with well-executed water-colour fac simile of a bunch of pansies.

PEMBERTON SMITH's insurance agency is issuing to its patrons a quaint picture calendar—entitled "The Little Spinner."

MORTON, PHILLIPS & Co's. calendar for 1909, while neither large nor elaborate has the merit of distinctness and a tasteful colour effect.

JOSE, PARKER & Co., bankers, of Boston, send out an excellent photogravure of President elect Taft.

OWING TO THE NUMBER OF USURY CASES recently came to light in Ontario, that province may ask an amendment to Section 91 of the British North America Act, relating to interest, widening the scope of its provisions to cover "all persons" and not merely "all money lenders." The actual enforcement of federal act rests with the province.