Insurance: Fire, Life and Miscellaneous.

Honesty is a good insurance policy. Plain old hustle and grit will always enlarge the debit.—Alabama Insurance Bulletin.

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The Union Life of Canada reports having written more new business during the first eight months of 1911 than in the whole of 1910. As already announced, a twenty-five million dollar campaign is now being waged by the company.

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Governor Eberhart, of Minnesota, has proclaimed November 8 next as Fire Prevention Day. A congress will be held in St. Paul on that day to discuss the subject of a campaign to reduce the fire waste of the State, which, says the proclamation, is increasing year by year and becoming more and more appalling.

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The Metropolitan Life is taking advantage of the laws recently passed in several states and is returning to holders of weekly premium policies, who have made premium payments for not less than one year directly to the home or district office, 10 per cent. of their premiums, which represents the saving of the cost of collections from agents. The first cheques were sent out September 1.

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Notice was given in our columns last week of the annual examinations of the Institute of Actuaries to be held in various centres throughout the world, including Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa and Winnipeg, from Monday, April 22, to Saturday, April 27, 1912, inclusive, Candidates must give notice in writing to the Honorary Secretaries at Staple Inn Hall, London (England), and pay the prescribed fee of one guinea, not later than January 31, 1912. Candidates who have passed Part I of a previous Syllabus will be permitted to take the Third Paper of Part I of the Syllabus dated 16 June 1908 as a separate Examination, and will not be required to pay an Examination Fee. Mr. T. B. Macaulay, F.I.A., is the Supervisor in Montreal.

Recent tests of the municipally owned pumping station at Edmonton, Alberta, it is announced, show that the principal pump can lift but one-third of its rated load, and another pump is completely out of service. It is estimated that it will take ten weeks to make repairs, and in the meantime the town is in serious danger of conflagration. Two years ago a 25 per cent. flat increase was made in rates, which was annulled when the new pump was put in service. With this pump proving inadequate, it is urged that the deficiency charge should be renewed until the water supply is restored.

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Fatal accidents have a bearing on mortality rates, we all know, but it is an interesting surmise as to what extent. One of the American companies recently conducted a mortality investigation, and the result was to show that the greatest claimant of human life is tuberculosis, following which accidents account for the next largest number of deaths. But that is in America, where it is quite a common incident of travel to pass the remains of a wrecked train, and where human life is generally regarded as "cheap." If, however, account could be taken of illnesses arising directly or indirectly from accidents trivial in themselves, then some very remarkable returns would be compiled. That, however, is not the basis of this American company's figures, and we are not inclined to regard them as other than local.—The Review, London.

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Arguments were made before the Newark tax board last Thursday relative to the assessment of the deferred dividend fund of the Prudential for tax purposes by the city of Newark. As the assessment stands, it amounts to $31,483,800, but the company insists that this amount should be reduced to about $6,000,000. The contention is based on the fact that Insurance Commissioner Lewis of New Jersey, in his certificates of valuations scheduled the company's special reserve fund, amounting to over $24,000,000, as a policy liability. When the New Jersey Supreme Court rendered its decision last year, under which the Prudential was compelled to pay an amount in excess of $700,000, the stipulation was made that a liability could only be recognized when so designated by the state official in charge of the department of insurance; consequently Mr. Lewis made the designation above referred to. The Prudential holds that under such valuation it is exempt from taxation on the deferred dividend fund; and that if there must be a controversy on the matter it should be between the commissioner of insurance and the city of Newark. The attorney for the latter, however, refuses to recognize this view of the situation and it seems apparent that the question will again find its way into the courts.