

in his own field of a hundred specials crossing and re-crossing and duplicating each other's work in a diversified inspection, which, he says, "does not reduce hazards or the loss ratio," and which entails great expense. We do not of course understand Mr. Crosby to favor the doing away at all of the company special, but only that the most thorough inspection of risks by trained experts be secured by the united action of all the companies. Fifty companies have already combined to form the New England Bureau of United Inspection.

THE MEETING OF the Actuarial Society of America on Canadian soil was one of those international gatherings which we delight to record. As Canadians it was a keen pleasure to the members and friends of the Society resident in the Dominion to welcome to our midst so many noted Americans, and we can guarantee a cordial reception whenever we may again be favored by the Society's presence. Every interchange of hospitality helps to draw closer those bonds of brotherly kindness which every sensible man desires to see strengthened to the utmost. Miss Canada is not willing to lose her identity by marrying her big neighbor, but she is very anxious to be indeed a sister to him. The two nations live side by side, speak the same language, have the same religion, and in many other ways have common interests, and should be among the very warmest and firmest of friends. Any society which draws together the citizens of the two countries is deserving of the thanks of both, while any fire-brand agitator, who endeavors recklessly to sow dissension between them, should be looked upon in the same light as a criminal.

IN THE WAY of current news, we stated in our last issue that no appointment had then been made of a manager here by the Caledonian insurance company, and casually expressed the opinion, also shared by Montreal underwriters generally, that the directors might well hesitate to appoint a comparatively inexperienced young man from the ranks of the brokers to fill such a position. Very naturally there are some who hold a different opinion, as is their right to do, and yet who have, it is said, taken offence because the CHRONICLE has also presumed to have and to express an opinion on the subject, even though in such a manner as to divest the allusion as much as possible of personalities. A proposed appointment which passes over the heads of half a dozen trained underwriters experienced in agency management, and which aims at the selection of any broker, however competent as such, challenges prompt criticism and disapproval in the interest of sound underwriting management. As a public journal devoted to the best interests of insurance, we stated the incontrovertible fact that such an appointment was "unusual," coupled with our implied opinion, so generally held, that the appointment of a man without experience in general agency management would be unwise. It would seem that the directors of the Caledonian hold the same opinion. We have dealt with this matter without prejudice for or

against the particular man named for the position, whom we do not know even by sight. It was the incongruity of the proposed appointment, not the man personally, with which we had to do. The CHRONICLE has decided opinions on all questions pertaining to insurance and its management, which will be, as heretofore, freely and impartially expressed without fear or favor, and without dictation by anybody anywhere.

WE ARE IN receipt of a letter from the representative, at Fredericton, of one of our best life companies, calling attention to the old story of the operations of the humbug short-term endowment orders, and calling upon the CHRONICLE to urge upon the Dominion Parliament the necessity of legislation to drive the swindling concerns from the Canadian field. Well, that is just what we have repeatedly done for the past six months, and we can only repeat the observation that the protection of the people from downright frauds in the fair name of insurance is quite as clearly the duty of our legislators as is their protection from any other class of frauds. We are of the opinion that these so-called endowment, and especially the "bond investment," concerns, of the assessment variety, may legally be proceeded against by the public prosecutor under our existing laws; but inasmuch as this official does not move in the matter, a distinct law, clearly giving the insurance superintendent the authority to expel the frauds, may be needed. That they are fast disappearing in the States under the aroused indignation of the people, who begin to realize how they have been duped, is no reason why their exit should not be hastened here by the strong arm—or rather, the vigorous boot—of the law.

THE UNEXPECTED IS always happening: a fact never to be lost sight of when considering the benefits of accident insurance. The *Accident News* well puts it when it says: "The only thing certain about the accident that is going to happen to you some day is that it will not be the accident you expect." Men are less liable to be killed or injured by the casualties especially pertaining to their calling or occupation than by those looked upon as remote contingencies. The above journal, in speaking of a large number of clippings from the daily papers during a part of July last, illustrates the truthfulness of our statement when it says:—

A clergyman loses his foot in boarding a railway train; the travelling salesman to whom that accident should have happened is struck in the eye by a base ball as he passes along the street, and the base ball player is drowned while bathing. Of the 239 accidents enumerated in these clippings, 59 of which were fatal, 27 were cases of drowning. The early part of the bathing season was marked again this year, as it is every year, by a large number of these sad accidents. Those who cannot swim take risks which are proper only for the strong swimmer, and the strong swimmer falls a victim to the cramp, or, as has been the case several times already this season, heroically loses his life in his attempt to save others.

It is astonishing how many casualties occur from falls to people of quiet habits and moving about the streets or engaged in non-hazardous employments. The *News* refers to the accidents reported at police head quarters in New York for six months—noted by us