

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON-SMITH,  
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### An Incendiary Gang Cleared Out.

Considering the dreadful consequences involved in setting fire to human habitations, this is one of the worst crimes in the calendar. An incendiary has forfeited his right to live at liberty, he has earned a life sentence, and ought not to be deprived of it. Few murderers are as deserving the gallows, or electrocution, as incendiaries who cause death by the fires they start. It is satisfactory to read, as reported in the "Insurance Field," that Fire Marshal Hollenbeck, Chicago, has secured twelve convictions among the gang of fire bugs in northwestern Ohio, and is not through yet. In addition to the leader, Homer B. Morrison, the more important convictions are as follows: William Davidson, William Matthews and Jacob Suter, sentenced to two years each in the penitentiary, and Albert Anderson, Wright Fisher and Sherman Meade, each of whom drew a prize of one year. All confessed their guilt. One year for such a crime is a mockery of justice.

### A Disappearance Case.

A motion was made on July 27, in the Law Courts, London, for leave to "swear death" in the case of one, W. H. Talintyre. Mr. T. sailed for Australia, in January, 1900, and arrived at Sydney on 6th April. On April 15 he enquired at his hotel as to the bathing on Manley Beach. He has not since been heard of, although his disappearance has been extensively advertised. The object of the motion was to have his death legally declared, so that his wife could secure the amount of a life policy. Counsel for the insurance company, the name of which was not divulged, argued that no proof of drowning had been furnished, and its unlikelihood was shown by the clothes of Mr. Talintyre having not been found on the beach. It was proved that he was on the best of terms with his wife, family and partners. Counsel for insurance company said, "We do not suggest that he had quarreled with his

wife; we merely wish to be satisfied, and as insurance companies always have to pay, we may as well be satisfied." The judge, Sir Francis Jeune, was satisfied as to the death of the man, and ordered leave to swear death on or since April 15, 1900. He refused to grant costs to the insurance company; and in answer to the question, "Does your Lordship seriously say that insurance companies are never to appear in these cases except at their own expense?" answered: "Yes, that is so." We should not be surprised at Mr. Talintyre being found alive. The fact that his clothes were not found where he was said to have gone in bathing and been drowned is very strong evidence that he did not go into the water at all. The alleged deceased was an invalid, and the probabilities point to his having voluntarily disappeared under some erratic impulse.

### The Famous Hillman Case.

The Hillman case is the "oldest inhabitant" of law Courts; it has been around since 1879. The facts are few. Hillman insured his life on March 4, 1879, for \$5,000, in one company, and \$10,000 each in two others. On March 24 he shot his helper in a distant county; changed clothes with the corpse, and buried it. His partner in the plot reported that Hillman had been killed and buried. The body was disinterred, and identified by Mrs. Hillman, though others doubted and denied. She brought suit to recover on the three policies. After a long suspense, Hillman's partner confessed, and told how Hillman had killed his helper, whose corpse had been passed off as his own. The Connecticut Mutual has fought this strange case with remarkable persistency, even though its refusal to pay the claim of Hillman's widow caused its license to be revoked in Kansas. At last it has triumphed. A foul murder has been exposed which was committed as part of a scheme to rob three life companies. For its foulness of detail, for its illustration of the law's delays, for the brutal cunning of the criminals, for the strange error of a widow in identifying a corpse as her hus-