

It is stated from Denver that the Royal Exchange insurance company of London has been admitted to do business in Colorado, thus extending its operations eastward from the Pacific Coast.

The General conference of the Methodist Episcopal church of the United States, at its recent session at Omaha, appointed a committee to report at the next session plans for a denominational fire insurance company.

The pork packers of Kansas City have gone into an insurance scheme called the Packers' Indemnity Exchange for the insurance not only of their own establishments but for outside business. This is probably a bluff movement to force down rates as fixed.

The fire loss for May in the United States and Canada was \$9,485,000, as compared with \$16,660,395 in May, 1891, and \$8,838,100 in May, 1890. The total loss for the first five months of 1892 was \$56,171,700. In the same period in 1891 it was \$60,967,545 and in 1890 \$42,156,245.

The Equitable Life, in its own way, has joined the movement to get rid of a considerable portion of the "not taken" insurance which annually encumbers the reports, if the statement proves to be correct that hereafter it will charge its agents with the medical examiner's fee on policies not delivered. The example is a good one to follow.

The suit of the bondholders of the Grand River Ditch company of Colorado, brought by the bondholders, led by T. C. Henry and Joseph K. Harvey, for \$48,000, with interest for several years, against the Travelers insurance company, has been decided at Denver by Judge Rising in favor of the plaintiffs. All former judgments and sales are set aside.

The final outcome of the legislation proposed in Massachusetts with reference to the assessment endowment orders has been a dodging of the question, by a small majority, in the Lower House of the Legislature, which has voted to postpone any action until next session. The final issue, after various somersaults by members, was on the adoption of the Bennett bill for winding up the concerns.

Very properly, hereafter the New York Life will work its business in the United States from the home office through general agencies. For this reason, the firm of Vanuxem, Waller & Co., of Chicago, which has managed the State of Illinois as a sort of independent kingdom, has been dissolved and the members, still exercising ordinary control as general agents, will report monthly direct to the head office.

The man arrested recently by detectives, at Los Angeles, Cal., as Bryant B. Crandall of Buffalo, N. Y., has at last confessed to his identity. Six years ago he disappeared, after effecting \$20,000 insurance on his life, his clothing being found on the banks of the Niagara river and a body found below the Falls three months later being identified by his wife as Crandall's. Part of the insurance was paid. He is in custody at Buffalo.

A bill has been or is about to be introduced in the Dominion Parliament providing for a Board of Electrical Control, to inspect all electrical plants in the Dominion with reference to their qualities and installation, and to examine all persons engaging in electrical callings as to their efficiency. The Board is to make rules governing all electrical appliances, and the bill provides for placing all wires underground in cities of more than 25,000 population.

A committee of the four principal French life assurance companies which has for some time been at work upon the question of reconstructed tables based on lower rates of interest than the old ones has completed its labors and it is probable that its recommendations will be adopted by the Government. The assumed rate of interest for the tables is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and new mortality tables based on the experience of the four companies for a long period are to take the place of the old, faulty ones nearly a hundred years old.

A suit has been brought at Chicago by the Manchester Fire against the Firemans insurance company of that city, the results of which will be awaited with general interest. Some time since, the Firemans re-insured certain risks for the Manchester in the South, and subsequently cancelled them, which the latter claims the former had no right, under the forms then in use, to do. A \$1,500 loss occurred on one of the risks at New Orleans and the Firemans denied liability, whereupon the Manchester brought suit.

The following bit of history, incorporated by Mr. George King, the able actuary of the Atlas Assurance Company, in to his article for the new edition of Chambers' Encyclopedia, is worth reproducing:—

The Earliest life assurance policy of which particulars have been preserved was made on June 15th, 1583, at the "Office of Insurance within the Royal Exchange in London." Full details of this policy have been preserved, because it gave rise to the first authentic disputed claim. The policy was for £383 6s. 8d., to be paid to Richard Martin in the event of William Gybbons dying within twelve months, and the policy was underwritten by thirteen different persons, who guaranteed sums of from £25 to £50 each. The premium was at the rate of £8 per cent. William Gybbons died May 28, 1584, and the underwriters refused to pay because he had survived twelve months of twenty eight days each. The commissioners appointed to determine such cases held that the twelve months mentioned in the policy meant one full year, and they ordered the underwriters to pay. These appealed to the Court of Admiralty, which then had jurisdiction in such cases, and where in 1587 two judges upheld the decision of the commissioners, so that eventually the underwriters had to pay.

PERSONAL MENTION.

MR. JOHN M. DOVE, the general manager of the Liverpool and London and Globe, is now on a visit to the United States.

MR. A. K. BLACKADAR, of the Dominion Insurance Department, has completed his examination of the insurance companies at Montreal.

MR. ALFRED ABSELL, in addition to being resident secretary in London of the Commercial Union, is hereafter to be foreign superintendent.

MR. J. G. THOMPSON of Toronto, manager for the Lancashire, was in Montreal last week. He reports the business of the Lancashire steadily improving.

MR. E. ROGER OWEN, the fire manager of the Commercial Union, after his recent visit to Montreal sailed for home on the "Teutonic" from New York last week.

MR. R. H. MATSON, general manager of the Provident Savings Life for Canada, was in this city last week en route to the Lower Provinces. He reports business good in his entire field.

MR. GEORGE THORNTON, well known in connection with the New York Life's agency department, has been in Montreal recently looking after the company's interests, and as usual doing judicious work that will tell.

MR. J. G. MORGAN of Winnipeg, general agent of the New York Life for Manitoba, the N. W. Territories and British Columbia, favored the CHRONICLE with a call recently. Mr. Morgan is a hustler—a fact which no doubt the company recognizes.