

THE INSURANCE CHRONICLE.

August 1st, 1908.

UNUSUAL HAZARDS.

"Lloyds will gamble on anything," says a Montreal journal. This opinion is probably due to the announcement that Lloyd's is issuing policies in the United States against the contingency of Mr. Bryan being elected as President. Except to those with an intimate knowledge of the many phases of underwriting, this has generally been thought to mean that Lloyd's have entered the sphere of the racetrack gambler. In other words, it was imagined that the famous underwriting concern would take a bet of a hundred to one, or whatever odds were reasonable, against Bryan's election. One may insure with this firm against almost every kind of loss. It will be recollected that when King Edward was taken sick some years ago, making necessary postponement of the Coronation, considerable insurance was written in the matter of his possible death. At first glance it might appear that this variety of insurance is gambling, pure and simple. But the basis of such transactions is that there must be actual loss before any indemnity can be obtained. As in the case of life insurance, death must be proved; in the case of fire insurance, proof must be given that loss has been sustained by conflagration. So in the case of any man holding a policy against loss arising out of the election of a candidate to the Presidency, conclusive proofs must be produced that his losses are attributable to the contingency against which he insured. Losses which might be sustained by the election of Bryan are probably numerous, but not easy to name.

LIFE, ACCIDENT, AND CASUALTY NOTES.

Mr. J. W. McKenzie, manager for Canada of the Maryland Casualty, has been compelled to postpone his annual Western trip, on account of the serious illness of his father at Halifax.

A statement of all persons appearing by the books and records of the officers of the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company to be creditors or claimants with respect to any policy of insurance therein have been filed with the Superintendent of Insurance, Ottawa.

Those agents who qualify for the offer made by the General Accident Assurance Corporation by writing a certain aggregate of personal accident and health business in the year ending 1st August, 1909, will be given a trip to Europe.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company of New York has published an elaborate history of the company with notes of its present position in the insurance world, its home office building, and its work carried on therein. The volume is excellently produced and is well illustrated. The Metropolitan Life is forty years old. In 1868 it assumed its present name; but its beginning was really as the National Life and Limb Company, incorporated in 1863. Its object was to insure against death and casualty the soldiers and sailors in the Civil War. The volume is of interest from cover to cover, and will probably be read by insurance men throughout the world.

The Aetna Life, of Hartford, Connecticut, have just appointed Mr. R. G. McCuish as provincial manager of their company at Winnipeg, which position was formerly occupied by Mr. A. L. Taylor. Mr. McCuish is a well-known western business man. He was for ten years engaged in newspaper work, is a past president of the Western Canada Press Association, and is the founder of the Morning Herald of Fort William. With Mr. McCuish's long experience in the West, he should make good in his new position. Mr. C. M. Brown, field superintendent from the head office of the Aetna Life, was in Winnipeg recently, and the appointment of Mr. McCuish is the result of his visit to the city.

The Aetna Life has recently issued a new policy combining accident and life. It is designed for the man of moder-

ate means, as it not only insures him against accident but pays \$250 to his family in case of death from any cause. In event of death by accident the \$250 is paid in addition to the amount of the accident insurance. A special feature of this policy is that the applicant is not obliged or even asked to undergo a medical examination. For accidental death within 200 weeks of date of injury the company pays \$1,000 in addition to the \$250 for death of any cause. This amount increases \$100 yearly for five years. For death caused by travel, elevator, or burning building the amounts are doubled, while the beneficiary is insured up to \$1,000. The assured receives a weekly indemnity of \$10 if disabled, besides specific amounts for loss of limb or eyesight, and fees for surgical operations and treatment. The cost of this policy is \$10 a year.

MOTOR VEHICLES AND THE ACCIDENT HAZARD.

Statistics were recently given in the Coroner's Court, of London, showing how motor-driven vehicles have added to the death-roll in the Metropolis. The figures for the Metropolitan area for 1907, excluding the city of London, were:—

	Accidents.	Injuries.	Deaths.
Motor buses	4,723	1,068	36
Private cars, motor cabs, and cycles	5,959	2,055	66
Horses and motor-drawn licensed vehicles	37,415	11,696	269

These returns exclude tramways, which were responsible for 5,328 accidents, causing injuries to 1,986 persons, and deaths to 21. The city statistics are set out much more clearly, being as follows:—

	1907.	1908, to June 30.
Killed	5	2
Injured by:—		
Motor omnibuses	194	94
Motor cabs	35	36
Motor cars	42	21
Other motor vehicles	19	10

ENGLISH INSURANCE NOTES.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

London, July 17th.

The Casualty Insurance Company, in appealing for ordinary capital, says little of its own success, but much of the success of other offices. On non-tariff lines it has in four years worked up a sickness and accident premium income of £6,250 per annum and appointed 3,000 agents. The auditors state that £22,000 of premium income was got at an expense in management and commissions of £13,800. The concern is palpably struggling.

Prices are given of shares in some older offices undertaking fire and miscellaneous business other than life. The Fine Art & General (founded 1890) stock is at 600 per cent. premium. Two pounds in the London Guarantee & Accident sell now for 28, or in the Employers' Liability for 9. Scottish Accident shares (£1 paid) stand at over 5 and National Insurances at £2 17s. Under strong Boards companies command a certain speculative subscription on the chance of such appreciation as this.

Is an insurant, injured by a fall from a horse, dead of a disease or of an accident when he dies from pneumonia contracted upon the way home from the hunting field? In a case Etherington vs. Lancashire & Yorkshire Accident Company the High Court has decided that death was consequent on accident and thus a valid claim.

FIRE AND MARINE NOTES.

Mr. Kirkpatrick, of Messrs. Wood and Kirkpatrick, the Toronto agents for the Aetna Insurance Company, is in England, and will be away for seven or eight weeks.

As the result of a committee report upon what they regard as excessive fire insurance rates in that place, the Nelson Board of Trade have sent the aforesaid report to the Board of Underwriters. It asks for reduction of rates by 30 to 50 per cent., pointing to the alleged fact that Nelson's fire equipment is "unexcelled in Canada."