

## Notes and Items.

### At Home and Abroad.

THE ROYAL ARCANUM is under official investigation by the Connecticut and Massachusetts Insurance departments.

THE COTTON CROP OF 1901 in United States amounted to 9,733,000 bales, as against 10,383,000 in 1900.

THE QUEEN INSURANCE CO. has sold its office property at corner of Cedar and William streets, New York, but has taken a lease of 3 floors of the building for 10 years, which it will occupy for its own business. The property is valued at \$720,000.

THE ROBBERY OF THE BANK OF LIVERPOOL was effected by a bookkeeper standing in with a gang of fellows with whom his sporting proclivities had brought him into contact. Pitch still defiles whoever touches it.

TORONTO, by a civic census just completed, is shown to have 13,540 more inhabitants than are recorded in the government census. If that is any criterion, the population of Canada must be nearly 6 millions, instead of only 5½ millions.

SIR CHRISTOPHER FURNESS, chief of the largest shipbuilding firm in the world, announces that he is interested in an enterprise of this class about starting in the United States. The Furness firm built more vessels last year than all the shipbuilders in the United States.

HAD CANADA LEVIED THE SAME DUTY ON FAIR implements as the United States last year there would have been over 1,000 more men employed in this country, whose wages would have amounted to \$800,000 to \$1,000,000, all of which, however, went to enrich the States at the expense of Canada.

THE VARIATION IN DEGREE OF FIRE PROTECTION in the same city is being discussed by New Orleans underwriters, as it might, with advantage, be in other places. There is not only distance from a fire-hall, nature of the approach, good or bad roads, level or hilly ground, but the local supply and pressure of water, all of which are factors affecting fire risks.

EXPORTS OF U.S. MANUFACTURES this year to end of October amounted to \$332,286,000, as compared with \$375,833,000, a decrease in ten months of \$43,547,000. The decrease is in exports of copper, iron and steel. In 1900 the exports of steel goods was so large that boasts were made that the States would soon lead the world in steel exports. This year the falling off has stopped the currency of this boast.

A SOUVENIR OF T. R. H. THE DUKE AND DUCHESS OF YORK'S VISIT, has been issued by the Benallack Litho. & Printing Co. The work is highly creditable to the firm, to the artist-workmen and to Canada. On the cover are illuminated shields showing the coat of arms, or crest of a number of Canadian cities, also of Canada, East and West Indies, S. Africa and Australia. Excellent likenesses of the Duke and Duchess and views of Canadian scenery add to the charm of this elegant souvenir.

MESSRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH & CO., PATENT SOLICITORS, Canada Life building, furnish us with the following complete weekly list of patents granted to Canadians in the United States. Any further information may be readily obtained from them direct: *American Patents*.—A. Erickson, axe; G. P. O. Heroux, bag; C. R. Littler, air-feeding device for furnaces; D. Maxwell, tedder; M. A. Smith, fruit drying apparatus; C. Whetham, tripod camera support; J. Seymour, valve for gas meters; A. I. Shaw, cattle guard.

ON BEING PLEASANT.—At a recent convention held in Detroit, the following was one of the good things brought out, which is well worth the consideration of those who are engaged in the strenuous business of insurance in the opinion of "Insurance Topics": "What we get out of people depends a great deal upon what we put into them. When they come into the presence of a pleasant fellow they will feel they are pleasant, too, and they will at once think better of themselves. We need to know a little of everything to be able to put ourselves in touch with the people we come in contact with. We must hold ourselves free to enter into the thoughts and the lives of the people we meet, so that we can draw them out; make them enjoy being in the room with you, and they will go away feeling better. Make a pleasing impression upon every man or woman. Don't talk to them about their corns, but help them to bear them by paying no attention to them."

ESOP REVISED TO DATE.—Our sedate contemporary, the "New York Commercial Bulletin," publishes the following revised edition of an old fable:—"The fox and the crow, having engaged in the local agency business, formed a National Association to promote, as the fox said, their common interests. The fox, being a prominent agent, was elected to high official position. The crow, being less prominent, contented himself with simple membership and with voting for all the fox's propositions.

"Now in those days there fell upon the land a strange distemper called the re-insurance and amalgamation fever, whereby the affairs of the country were so upset that the fox's larder became affected and the crow's only remaining provender was a piece of small-agency cheese. The fox thereupon called a meeting of the association and addressed the crow, who, with the cheese in his mouth, sat on a branch over the fox's head.

"The crying evil of the times," said the fox, "is over-competition in the agency business. All who are in favour of limitation to sole agencies will manifest it by saying 'Aye,' whereupon the crow voted 'Aye,' but on opening his mouth the small-agency cheese fell to the ground, only to be snapped up by master fox and added to the contents of his larder."

### STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES.

Wednesday, p.m., December 4, 1901.

A weakening tendency in prices was evident during the early part of the week, and although to-day there was some improvement in quotations still several stocks on the list show a net loss from last week's quotations. The trading was exceedingly dull throughout the week, and a disposition to wait