

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

MOLSONS BANK is opening a branch at St. Mary's, Ont.

REGINA HAS BEEN ELEVATED into the rank of a city. As such may it prosper!

THE CITY COUNCIL, GUELPH, has resolved to take over the local street railway.

THE MANITOBA AND NORTHWEST crop reports promise an even better yield than last year's.

THE ELGIN LOAN COMPANY is to be wound up. The London and Westminster Trust Co., London, Ont., has been appointed liquidator.

THE CUNARD LINE has withdrawn from the North Atlantic Conference, which was a practical combine to establish uniform rates for transatlantic passengers.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for the week ending 11th June, 1903—Clearings, \$2,204,495; corresponding week last year, \$2,635,841.

THE CANADA COMPANY announces a dividend of £2 per share, free of income tax, for the half-year. The land leased, with right of purchase amounted to 4,263 acres, at an average price of \$18.

OPEN FLOOR AREA.—The bill to increase open floor area in mercantile buildings in Boston from 10,000 to 60,000 square feet has been defeated in the Massachusetts Legislature.

NON-FORFEITABLE A BLE, non for' fit a bl, adj.—From "Rough Notes."—1. Not forfeitable. 2. A life insurance policy of peculiarly adhesive type. Some policies are easily forfeitable for lack of compliance with some provisions or conditions. With some it takes eternal vigilance to avoid forfeiture. The non-forfeitable kind are not so. Once accepted, no act or idiosyncrasy of the holder will relieve him of their benefits. He is at liberty to live as long as he may and to die when and how he pleases. If he discontinues premium payments the policy automatically adjusts itself to furnish him with paid-up insurance to the extent of his policy accumulations.

INSURANCE AGAINST FLOODS.—A contemporary suggests insurance against loss by floods. "Millions of dollars' worth of property is destroyed every year by floods. Would it not be practicable to protect these values by insurance. We believe that it would. Most American cities are built upon the banks of streams, great or small, and portions of them are generally exposed to flood hazards. In many cases large districts, containing much valuable property, are exposed to just such a calamity as that which visited North Topeka and many other Western cities last week. It is comparatively easy to determine what property is exposed to this hazard."

A COURSE IN FIRE PROTECTION ENGINEERING, for which fire underwriters have been bending their efforts, will be established by the Armour Institute, in Chicago. It is to be inaugurated, says "The Insurance Field, with the opening of the new college year in September, with Professor Fitzhugh Taylor, formerly engineer of the Underwriters' Laboratories, in charge. The technical work will be done at the Underwriters' Laboratories, by per-

mission of the insurance companies who control that institution. A four years' course is arranged, leading to the degree of bachelor of science, and in addition to the course of study, lectures will be given each year by insurance men, contractors and architects.

REFORM IN PLATE-GLASS UNDERWRITING.—A determined effort is being made by plate glass insurance company officials to place their business upon a more satisfactory basis than it has occupied for some years past, and to that end a general conference is proposed. At present there is a limited agreement governing rates and commissions in New York City, and we believe the same applied to one or two other points, but throughout the country competition in plate glass insurance circles is keen and demoralizing. The reform measures thus far determined upon include the issuance of a uniform policy contract, and the establishment in the city of a clearing office, to which will be referred all questions at issue that may arise in the field conduct of the business, the conference actuary to be sole judge, both as to the disputed matters and the imposition of penalties. These latter, by the way, are severe. As the underwriters are thoroughly in earnest in seeking reformation in their business methods, the prospect for the early and complete materialization of the plans above briefly described seems bright indeed.—"Insurance Advocate."

SUICIDE RATE.—In reply to the assertion that the suicide rate in the United States exceeds that of other countries, the "Insurance Advocate" says. "The suicide rate in the United States is among the *lowest* of all civilized nations, as proof: The average annual suicide rate in countries of the world per 100,000 persons living is given by Barker as follows:—

Saxony.....	31.1	South Australia	8.9
Denmark.....	25.8	Sweden	8.1
Schleswig-Holstein.....	24.0	Norway.....	7.5
Austria.....	21.2	Belgium.....	6.9
Switzerland.....	20.2	England and Wales.....	6.9
France.....	15.7	Tasmania.....	5.3
German Empire.....	14.3	Hungary.....	5.2
Hanover.....	14.0	Scotland.....	4.0
Queensland.....	13.5	Italy.....	3.6
Prussia.....	13.3	Netherlands.....	3.7
Victoria.....	11.5	United States.....	3.5
New South Wales.....	9.3	Russia.....	2.9
Bavaria.....	9.1	Ireland	1.7
New Zealand.....	9.0	Spain.....	1.4

A PLATE-GLASS COMPACT.—It seems as if a plate-glass compact, along the same lines as the casualty conference, is to be consummated in the near future. Officials of the plate-glass insurance companies have had several meetings of late. Officials of the following companies were present at a recent meeting: New York, Lloyds, Metropolitan, Fidelity and Casualty, Aetna Indemnity, Union Casualty, Philadelphia Casualty, Pacific Surety, United States Plate Glass, and the New Jersey. Neither the Maryland Casualty nor the Central Accident were represented, although each office is understood to be in sympathy with the proposed reform movement. Possibly one or two of the smaller offices, for reasons best known to themselves, will decline to co-operate, but all the important companies are heartily in favour of the plan, in order to continue the business on a profit-paying basis. The results of the meeting are as follows:—A minimum rate has been adopted, below which no policies will be written. A standard form of contract is to be adopted so that no undue advantage will be had by one company over another through special policy clauses and riders.