into more general use may justify an increase of these rates. The matter will bear watching.

Upon a very seasonable subject this warm weather, viz.: "Sprinklered Risks," I have heard some gossip. At some expense and trouble, the C. N. U. A. introduced a special scale of rates for these risks, and endeavored to encourage the introduction of sprinklers. Of course, there are only a limited number of such protected risks in Canada, but information dissemminated, and figures quoted, showing the money saving and the decrease of risk, has drawn the attention of manufacturers and others interested to the plans proposed to effect the change. The result is a marked increase in the adoption of these appliances. So far, so good. Unfortunately, there are drawbacks which occasionally prevent the local companies reaping the benefit of their incurred expense for inspection, etc. It appears when the work has been done that often the travelling inspectors of certain insurance companies across the line, who make a specialty of sprinklered risks, come along and tell the insured that if he has made all these improvements he is entitled to a much lower rate than the association offers him, and thus induce him to go in on the Mutual Plan. They support their solicitation with an array of names of other manufacturers who have joined, and whose net rate for the past year was remarkably low, and so on. This sort of thing is not encouraging, but it has to be met, and it is just a question whether the C. N. U. A. has served its own interests on taking up the matter (in a special way) at all. Competition, in one way or another, however, has to be reckoned on.

I have not yet heard that the officers of the C. N. U. A. have as yet decided on a place of assembly for the General Annual Meeting to be held this autumn. Three or four points have been spoken of. The requirements of a place to make it eligible are :—

1. Remoteness from the homes and offices of members, to insure regular attention to business.
2. A spacious Council Chamber.
3. A sufficiency of creature comforts of a first-class kind.
4. Reasonable charges for extras.
5. Nearness *to water*.
6. Cosy corners for committee meetings and private juntos.

The weather one must take as we find it, but the Indian summer kind would be preferred.

Yours, *Ariel.*

Toronto, 1st August, 1898.

LONDON LETTER.

FINANCIAL.

20th July, 1898.

The triumph of Henniker Heaton is the piece of financial news that has been interesting many hundreds of thousands of people during the past week. Imperial penny postage, at last almost an accomplished fact, Australia and India being certain to come in before long, we are hearing now of Anglo-Saxon penny postage which will mean the inclusion of the United States. It is a good thing to live in this progressive age.

* * *

The depressed state of Chilian securities in this market appears likely to continue. The run upon the Bank of Chili has been suspended by the legislature closing the bank doors for thirty days, which action will not diminish mercantile distrust. The great decrease in the export duties on nitrate and iodine is a grave factor in complicating Chili's illness, and the feud with La Plata over the boundary question does not tend towards financial betterment. Holders of Chili bonds are hungry for a full and true explanation from Errazuriz and his colleagues.

* * *

Yankee Rails and Spanish funds rose on 'Change when Santiago fell, and the improved condition continues. A proclamation of peace and amity is the only thing left now to complete the reassuring state, and then if only the volcanic elements of the Peninsula remain at rest all may yet go well. But it is just that "peace" which must be accompanied by the cession of Cuba and the other colonial dependencies to local republics under American influence that will provoke a revolutionary cataclysm unless Spanish soldiery are more capable of dealing with their revolted countrymen than they have been of dealing with Dewey, Sampson and the rest.

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Whilst the last traffic return of the Canadian Pacific was not nearly so bad as that of the Grand Trunk, they have both showed up unsatisfactorily in the market, and a rise in the quotations waits upon a traffic increase.

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The first of the Home Railway half-yearly dividend announcements, that of the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway, exercised a rather unsettling influence, as it resulted in a reduction of dividend to 4 1-2 per cent., as against 4 3-4 per cent. last time. The balance forward was also decreased, being $59,500, as against $81,880 before. The next important announcement, that of the Great Eastern, was more agreeable, the distribution being at 2 per cent. as before whilst the balance forward increased to $42,500 as against $13,330 for June, half year, 1897.

* * *

The series of foreign loans which have been frequently offered here since the year began will be added to shortly by a Persian issue. The underwriting is, I hear, finished, and, if a threatened hitch or two can be overcome, the loan will be published in a day or two. The amount is to be $5,000,000 at 5 per cent., and secured upon the customs revenue of the principal ports and any Persian Government funds held by the Imperial Bank of Persia.

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Flotations are dropping off, and promoters are hieing away to the meadows, the moors, and the bright blue Southern seas.

INSURANCE.

Oil, matches and lamps are exciting continued and in some cases enhanced interest and discussion now. The Parliamentary inquiry into the dangers caused by the low flash petroleum sold so widely to the industrial population of this country has resulted in valuable suggestions, to some of which I have referred before. The adoption of a flash-point of 100 degrees (Abel close test) is the most important recommendation, and another which would enable the Secretary of State to control lamp-manufacture and prevent the sale of defective lamps is of interest to insurance offices. Legislation is needed both against bad oil and bad lamps, as the list of deaths and the amount of the destruction of property from accidents with these things grows intolerable. And whilst our legislative gentlemen are adding to the codes they might pay a little attention to match manufacture. The ordinary