

MR. J. BRADSHAW, of Prince Albert, has been appointed travelling inspector of the London Mutual, Anglo-American and Equity Fire Insurance Companies, also of the London Guarantee and Accident Co., in the West.

THE FEBRUARY FIRE LOSS.—The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of February, 1903, as reported by the New York "Journal of Commerce" and "Commercial Bulletin," shows a total of \$16,090,800. The following comparative table exhibits the losses for the first two months of 1901, 1902 and 1903:—

	1903.	1902.	1901.
January . . . . .	\$13,166,350	\$15,032,800	\$16,574,950
February . . . . .	16,090,888	21,010,500	13,992,000
Totals . . . . .	\$29,257,150	\$36,042,300	\$30,566,950

THE BANK CLEARINGS IN MELBOURNE, Australia, last year, amounted to \$850,125,000, and in Sydney to \$893,180,000, against respectively \$852,133,000 and \$838,383,500. The Australian Insurance and Banking Record censures the Governments of those Colonies for over-spending, and remarks: "They all seem to be imbued more or less with the view that whether times are good, indifferent, or bad, borrowing should be indulged in to make things better." Our friends at the antipodes come by this trait honestly, they are the sons of a race that has never hesitated to borrow money in the most sanguine spirit. See what is proposed to be done by the British Parliament this session!

FAILURES IN GREAT BRITAIN in 1902 numbered 4,220, which, according to Kemp's "Mercantile Gazette," was a smaller number than those of any year on record, except 1901, 1809, 1897, 1896, 1890 and 1884. These are some of the comparisons:

1883 . . . . .	10,224	1893 . . . . .	4,900
1884 . . . . .	3,760	1894 . . . . .	4,801
1885 . . . . .	4,370	1895 . . . . .	4,400
1886 . . . . .	4,869	1896 . . . . .	4,196
1887 . . . . .	4,849	1897 . . . . .	4,105
1888 . . . . .	4,860	1898 . . . . .	4,298
1889 . . . . .	4,586	1899 . . . . .	4,135
1890 . . . . .	4,036	1900 . . . . .	4,393
1891 . . . . .	4,231	1901 . . . . .	4,215
1892 . . . . .	4,051	1902 . . . . .	4,220

In 1879 the total was 15,732, and it never fell below 10,000 from 1876 to 1883 inclusive.

RISK ON STOVE PIPES.—A writer in the Boston "Journal of Commerce," says he can confidently assert, from a fairly extended observation, that there is no safe way of passing a metal boiler stack through a wooden roof. Large thimbles, asbestos backing, good ventilation, etc., are usually deemed sufficient, usually approved by insurance men, and are sometimes, but by no means always, permanently successful. The tricky nature of baked wood exposed to intermittent radiant heat is such that no man can tell whether it will ignite at all, or ignite in six months or ten years. The only sure method of fire prevention where a metal boiler stack passes through a roof is to make the roof all metal, or tile, or equivalent for a large section, say, about eight feet square, with the stack passing through the centre of the special section of roof. The marvel is that pipes passed through wooden roofs, partitions and walls cause so few fires. In this, as in other cities, hundreds of pipes may be seen apparently in the most dangerous positions in cottages and sheds, but it seems to take a first-class building, a stone warehouse, with heating arrangements in charge of a man, to raise a fire.

A BIT OF GOOD SCOTCH.—Pointing out a misquotation of the line—

"And we'll tak' a right good-willie waught" (wrongly quoted "good willie-waught") "The Insurance Advocate" says:

"The 'Bulletin' is tangled up on the words 'willie,' and 'waught,' which are two distinct words, meaning 'will' and a 'drink' respectively. Funk & Wagnall's Standard dictionary falls into the same error, defining 'willie-waught' as a 'draft of liquor,' which is, of course, absurd. A *draft* of liquor! As regards 'willie' and 'waught,' the hyphen is in the wrong place. It should be between 'good' and 'willie,' meaning good-will. It is a good-willie waught' that we'll tak', for Auld Lang Syne, and not a 'good willie-waught.' Suffering Jenny Geddes! how the language of Paradise is mangled, an' dell cotic the wames o' them wha maltreat the Lord's ain speech."

ADVANCES BY BANKERS.—The Ontario Bank sued one Poole, a shareholder of the Consolidated Pulp and Paper Company, upon a promissory note signed by him and used with the bank for an advance sought for the purposes of the company. Poole claimed that the note was used for a purpose other than he intended when he signed it, without his authority, and that the bank had notice of this. At the trial the action was dismissed, but now the Ontario Court of Appeal has reversed this and given judgment for the bank. Chief Justice Moss, in the course of his judgment said: It is clear that the main and leading purpose of making the note was that it might be employed to procure funds from the bank for the purposes of the company. There was special necessity at the time for an immediate advance to relieve the company from pressing liabilities upon which actions were threatened and imminent. It is true that among the makers of this and twelve other notes used for the same purpose the form of the transaction was referred to as a discount of the notes, but this may be regarded as a mere form of speech. They were not considering the form so much as the substance, which was the obtaining of the advance. The form the transaction took could make little difference to the makers. They were becoming liable on the notes in order that they might be used with the bank in procuring the needed funds. Whether the money was advanced directly on the notes, or whether it was advanced in consequence of their having been given to be held as collateral security, was immaterial. The advances were made as much upon the faith of the notes as upon the other securities, and there was ample consideration to the makers. (Ontario Bank v. Poole, 1 Ont. Weekly Reporter 832.)

PERSONALS.

MR. W. D. ROSS, Assistant General Manager of the Metropolitan Bank, was in Montreal recently.

MR. GEORGE C. HIAM, the well-known insurance agent of this city, has issued a circular, which states that he has taken into partnership Mr. O. C. Pangman, who has been connected with the Guardian Assurance Co., Ltd., for past ten years, and that under the firm name of Hiam & Pangman they propose to carry on business as general insurance brokers.

MR. WM. E. KNOTT has been appointed by the Governor of Florida, State Treasurer and ex-officio Insurance Commissioner, to succeed Mr. James B. Whitfield, who resigned to accept the office of Attorney-General of the State.