

re-enters the arena with renewed vigor. As an old time, staunch supporter of the C. F. U. A.,—one of the pillars—in fact, his return to the councils of the Association is opportune.

By the way, that special meeting I referred to in my last took place on the 27th inst. It was in many respects, I am told one of the most pleasant gatherings, for its duration, held in the Board room for years. The members of the Toronto Board met with smiling faces, and they parted in the same genial way. There was not a dissenting voice raised, nor an unkind word said to those present, nor of those absent. We all know, because the circular was given by some one to the City Press, what was expected to be discussed. It was insinuated that the old respected Toronto Board was about to sanction a violent special crusade of its members against the Agricultural Insurance Co. of Watertown, which recently retired from the tariff organization. Nothing of the sort was ever seriously contemplated, I hear. The whole thing was just a little job put up on the Board by a few mischievous wags, and the meeting might more fitly have been called for the 1st of April. With admirable temper, everyone present appreciated the hoax, and only a few outsiders (whether in or out of the press I do not say), that are so fat witted they cannot see a joke, thought they saw in this meeting, an attempt to freeze out a competitor who does not happen to see things just as others see them—a pardonable optical variation, surely. I am not quite sure but that so far from being an unfriendly move against a differing sister, the result of all this unintended notoriety, will be distinctly beneficial to her. Those not posted should understand that a special meeting called by the President of the Board commands a respectful compliance and prompt attention. Further, a rule provides that such a meeting may be called by the President on request of a certain number of members. Our jokers, aware of this rule, acted under it, and brought about the meeting.

After the humor of the situation effervesced, and lively but of course fruitless enquiries were made as to who it was that in a measure spoiled the joke by prematurely giving it publicity, the meeting dissolved. The *talk*, I believe, did not last 20 minutes. As all were of one mind, no need of argument. Yes, it was brief and worthy of that ancient epitaph over a dead, three day old infant:—

"Since I am so quickly done for
"I wonder what I was begun for."

Yours,
ARIEL.

TORONTO, 28th NOVEMBER, 1896.

Notes and Items.

The Chicago premiums of the Lancashire Insurance Company from March 1st to 1st July this year amounted to \$30,188. The erroneous amount quoted in our last issue was taken from a Chicago paper.

The illness of Mr. Jeffrey Beavan, sub-manager of the Royal Insurance Co., who is suffering from typhoid fever, has excited deep regret in insurance circles. We trust soon to hear of his convalescence.

A prominent English physician declares that if consumption continues to decrease at the rate it has done in the last 30 years, it will have disappeared at the end of another similar period. Sir James Simpson predicted this over a generation ago.

Mr. J. G. Elliott, Secretary of the Victoria, B. C., Board of Fire Underwriters, has our thanks for calling attention to the conviction and fining of Mr. A. M. Bullock by the Police Court of Vancouver, for issuing policies bearing his name as agent of a company not licensed to transact business in the Dominion.

Mr. C. R. Gilman, Manager of the Norwich & London Accident Insurance Association, was recently elected Mayor of Norwich, an office he held in 1882.

The Vancouver Advertiser reports the fining of a person \$20 in the Police Court for soliciting business for an insurance company not registered in the Province.

If Asbestos grease turns out to be what is claimed, its general use will be a boon to insurance companies, as it is said to wholly prevent heat arising where it is used for lubricating purposes.

The Actuarial Society of America has elected the following as its Board of Examiners: Messrs Emory McClintock, D Parks Fackler, F. W. Frankland, Wm. McCabe, and J. A. De Boer.

Mr. Brewster, Assistant United States Manager of the Scottish Union & National, was painfully injured by being pitched out of his berth in the sleeper of the wrecked train on Union Pacific near Denver recently.

The London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Company has favored us with a copy of its hand book on American Cotton Crop Movements, in which the average prices, consumption, crops in sight, and a variety of data are presented of much value to all interested in cotton and its insurance.

Law suits are not in favor with insurance companies. A table published in *Rough Notes* shows there were only 202 important cases tried in the various Supreme Courts of the different States in the years 1887 to 1895, of which exactly one half were won by the companies.

Mr. C. A. Hogues was stated in an article in our last issue to be Inspector of the St. Lawrence Fire Insurance Company, our information being the card and advertisement of the company. Mr. Hogues writes us to say, "I was appointed Inspector on 20th July last, and resigned the position on Oct. 7th."

Insurance officials, and all directly interested in the insurance business in New York State, are just now considerably excited over a rumor that a new Insurance Superintendent is to be appointed whose only claim is political. We trust such a scandal will be averted by some one being appointed worthy of so responsible an office.

The Boston Board of Fire Underwriters' report to 1st November, 1896, gives an account of 6,951 inspections made in the year, as a consequence of which 3,881 buildings were improved. Inspections had been made of 3,346 electric lights, the good effect of which is manifest in the fires due to electrical causes being due to causes that could not have been foreseen.

The House of Lords Court of Appeal has confirmed the judgment of a lower Court, by which the Royal Insurance Company was refused the right to charge an allowance made to the ex-manager of the Queen, when its business was taken over by the Royal, as an item of expense, and so not chargeable with income tax. The Royal had commuted the allowance of \$20,000 a year by payment of \$229,000, one condition being that the ex-manager must not engage in insurance business. The House of Lords held that this payment was a capital sum being part of the cost of acquiring the business of the Queen.