

THE PARK RANGER.

To the surprise of the large majority of the citizens of Montreal, a man of whom very few of them had ever heard was appointed to a position for which he was not known to be an applicant. Mr. Henderson may prove to be a very efficient Park Ranger, and it is quite likely he possesses all the qualifications necessary for the duties he has undertaken. Yet we cannot refrain from noting the somewhat unusual deviation from the practice of paying attention to the recommendations of the committee entrusted with the selection of candidates. However, we trust the members of the Council were convinced that the gentleman selected for the post deserved the support he received.

MR. F. WOLFERSTON THOMAS.

We regret to learn that the health of Mr. Wolferstan Thomas, general manager of The Molsons Bank, is not improving as his friends would wish. He is missed in business and banking circles, and at the meetings of the many benevolent societies to the advancement of whose interests he was so thoroughly devoted.

INCOME MUST EXCEED OUTGO.**WORDS OF WISDOM FROM CHICAGO.**

"The era of heavy losses still continues, and advices from all parts of the country concur in the opinion that the like has never before been experienced, excepting when a city conflagration came to swell the grand average," says Secretary R. J. Smith, of the Traders' Insurance Company of Chicago, and adds: "We learn from the daily despatches, containing interviews with prominent insurance people in New York city, that at last they are beginning to wake up to the fact and are groping about to find a reason for all this and a remedy as well."

"In the first place it is apparent to everybody that the net premium receipts of the companies, even those who are conservative, are entirely insufficient to meet the drain. The remedy for this would seem to be plain: Increase the receipts by advancing the rates and reducing the expenditures. This simple remedy, which is now within the reach of all, appears not to have occurred to many. It is a potent fact that the legitimate companies, doing a legitimate business, can't keep up the present pace of paying losses and expenses on the present rate of premium. They may as well recognize this first as last.

"All efforts to recoup by finding a way to get around the facts and writing large lines at rates and under forms of policies which are simply preposterous and foolish must fail sooner or later. This has been the history of the business, always, and will continue. Underwriters, therefore, who, by merit or accident, occupy responsible positions, must not conclude that they can hide behind a record of former years or depend on luck to help them escape. Agents, too, have

a grave responsibility to meet, and if all will act on the well-known theory that the income must exceed the outgo the remedy is found. The proposition is so simple that we wonder why there should be any doubt or inquiry about it."

EMPLOYERS LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

The directors of this company have recommended a dividend of \$1 per share, being at the rate of 10 per cent per annum for the past year. This will leave as provision for current policies and reserves a balance of \$1,046,915 to be carried forward, as against \$965,605 in the preceding year.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We have to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the 45th annual report of the Superintendent of Insurance for the State of Massachusetts.

PERSONAL.

Mr. H. C. McLeod, general manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia, who has recently returned from a brief visit to Germany, was in Montreal on Tuesday last.

Mr. T. E. Kenny, president of the Merchants' Bank of Halifax, has been in the metropolis for several days.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondent.

ANOTHER METROPOLITAN NUISANCE.

Dear Mr. Editor,—

You evince so much regard for the reputation of the metropolis, so much concern at its filthy condition, and so much sorrow at the bad impression created thereby in the minds of visitors, that I venture to ask for sufficient space in *THE CHRONICLE* to call attention to a nuisance which can be prevented without our having to wait for action on the part of the City Council. I refer to the annoyance and discomfort caused to pedestrians by the carelessness of shopkeepers on St. Catherine street. Let me briefly make my complaint. In company with hundreds of other citizens, I walk to business via the thoroughfare in question, and with unfailing regularity pass from Peel street to Phillip square between 8.45 and 9 o'clock. Along the route, I encounter the following nuisances:

The man who lazily sweeps dust and dirt from his shop into my face; the boy who plays the hose on my boots and the pavement in equal measure; and that most-to-be-dreaded fiend, the youth with a very long-handled broom, who swabs the shop windows with one end, while he removes my hat or a few of my teeth with the other.