

The extensive premises of the well known E. B. Eddy Company, Ottawa, are being inspected by Mr. A. L. McCrae, chief inspector of the Mercantile Guarantee & Adjustment Co., Chicago, with a view of alterations being effected to make the premises one of the best equipped risks of its class on the Continent.

Rough Notes in the April number says: The British America and Western Assurance Companies are the two strong Canadian companies that are everywhere well and favorably known in "the States." They are prompt, honorable, and liberal in their dealings, and have secured a large and exceedingly valuable business.

Sixteen fire insurance companies in the United States, about one-eighth of the whole number, control about half the business of the country, having a total of \$8,761,209,494 of risks in force, 9 of these companies being American and 7 British. *The Insurance Age* desires to see the fire insurance business better distributed among a large number of companies.

Boston's fire losses in the past ten years have been as follows:

	\$		\$
1886	1,089,196	1891	1,511,764
1887	690,454	1892	846,395
1888	1,031,676	1893	5,024,765
1889	4,819,879	1894	1,726,627
1890	1,088,887	1895	1,058,279

An alarming accident, which might have produced a serious fire, occurred in the Merchants Bank, Galt. There was a smell of gas, and the janitor, as he stepped into the vault to light the jet, struck a match; this caused an explosion, by which he and the manager and the ledger keeper were badly burned. The interior of the safe was all a blaze, but the flames were put out by Mr. Jarvis, the manager, with much presence of mind, although suffering from a scorched face. Jets in office vaults should be discontinued.

The Supreme Court of New York has recently decided that an insurance company has a right under the cancellation clause of the New York standard policy, to cancel a policy after due notice to insured, without accompanying the notice with a return of the unearned premium. The clause reciting, "the unearned premium due, if any, will be held subject to your order and return of policy," was held to be strictly valid. Ignoring a cancellation notice, because the unearned premium is not returned before applied for as directed, is evidently played out in New York, says *The Argus*.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of March, as compiled from daily files of the *New York Journal of Commerce*, shows a total of \$14,839,600. This is about \$600,000 more than the sum chargeable against March, 1895. The following comparative table will show the January, February and March records in 1894, 1895 and 1896:

	1894.	1895.	1896.
January	\$10,568,400	\$11,895,600	\$11,040,000
February	11,297,600	12,360,200	9,730,100
March	9,147,100	14,239,300	14,839,600

Total. \$31,013,100 \$38,495,100 \$35,609,700

During the month just closed there were 253 fires of a greater destructiveness than \$10,000. The Minneapolis grain elevator, with a loss of \$800,000, and the Louisville distillery warehouses, with \$600,000, head the list. The former fire is said to demonstrate the great uncertainty in automatic sprinkler protection in elevators.

Fire-proof safe clause.—The words "fire proof safe" in a policy insuring a country merchant mean the usual fire-proof safe used by the country generally—a safe composed of incombustible material, and fitted to protect to the usual extent, and in the ordinary way, book and papers deposited therein, and not that rare and costly structure—if indeed such there be—which is capable of successfully withstanding the action of fire altogether and of preserving its contents from harm absolutely.—*Rough Notes*.

The Lloyds Plate Glass Insurance Company of New York, which has an office in Toronto, has had an experience which will open its eyes as to the extent of the snow fall in Canada, and the travelling difficulties it causes. On a recent Monday morning the Company shipped a pane of glass to Guelph, a 30 miles trip, in charge of four men and two teams of horses. The party and the glass reached Guelph on Wednesday evening, having made an average of 10 miles a day. The load weighed 3,800 lbs. This mode of conveyance was determined upon, owing to losses on the rails from lack of facilities for handling plate glass of such sizes. We fancy the Grand Trunk people will enjoy reading the history of this remarkable journey more than the teamsters did in making the trip.

The Great West Life Assurance Company held its annual meeting on 19th inst. at Winnipeg, at which the report for year 1895 was read and adopted. During the year 1,110 policies were issued or revived for \$1,899,200. The insurance in force on 31st December last was \$5,071,150, being \$832,100 in excess of previous years. The total cash income was \$133,476, which is an increase of \$15,043 over previous years. The death claims were \$22,769, all incurred having been paid, and total expenditure \$93,737. The Company is now doing business in every Province of the Dominion. The assets are announced to be \$240,995, leaving the Reserve Fund and Surplus for policy-holders as \$240,792. The effect of the improvement in condition of the North West from the magnificent crop of 1895 is stated to have been an increase of 43 per cent. in amount of applications from 1st January to 19th March this year, over the same period 1895. The Company claims to have special advantages in being able to invest its funds in mortgages at 2 to 3 per cent. higher than rules Ontario and Quebec. That the Company had only \$46 of overdue interest is certainly highly creditable to the management. The Great West is in charge of an able and energetic Managing Director, Mr. J. B. Brock, who will leave no effort neglected calculated to build up the Company on sound and progressive lines.

PERSONAL MENTION.

MR. J. LLOYD OWEN, from the head office of the Alliance Assurance Company, has been placed in charge of the Canadian business.

WE HAD RECENTLY the pleasure of a call from Mr. H. J. Moorhouse, of Sault Ste. Marie; Mr. Charles R. Burt, secretary Connecticut Fire Insurance Co., Hartford; Mr. James Boomer, manager of the Manchester Fire Assurance, Toronto.

THE LATE MR. E. H. KING.

We regret to hear of the death of Mr. E. H. King, for some years General Manager of the Bank of Montreal, and afterwards its President. Mr. King was a shrewd financier of indomitable energy. This news has arrived as we are going to press.