

if the subject is included. There is probably no truth in either rumour. There is no reason why disarmament should not be freely discussed by the representatives of all nations, and it will be quite time enough for any of the great powers to withdraw when they find that agreement upon such a vital question is impossible. For the nations to meet and talk peace while engaged in fierce competition with each other in preparation for war and to bar that subject of all others from discussion would be the height of absurdity and hypocrisy.

#### **Population and Wealth of U. S.**

The Census Department of the United States, reports that the population of that country exclusive of Alaska and other distant possessions was at the end of last year, 83,941,500. Including these possessions, the total of the nation's population was 93,182,000. The total wealth of the United States is put down at \$107,104,192,000. Of this amount \$55,510,228,057 is represented by real property and improvements taxed; \$6,831,224,570 by similar property exempt; \$11,244,752,000 by railways and their equipments; \$7,409,291,668 by manufactured products; \$5,750,000,000 by furniture, carriages, etc.; \$2,500,000,000 by clothing and personal adornments; \$4,073,791,736 by live stock; \$3,297,754,180 by machinery, tools and implements; \$2,219,966,000 by street railways; and \$1,998,603,308 by coin and bullion.

#### **The Decision of Chicago.**

The people of Chicago have by a large majority turned down the principle of municipal ownership, and in so doing, have vindicated their own sanity. The civic election campaign was fought squarely and solely upon this issue. Mayor Dunne and the Democratic party advocated the immediate ownership by the city of the street railway system. Mayor Elect Busse and the Republicans favoured twenty year franchises for the street railway companies. As a result, Mayor Dunne loses the civic chair.

#### **The New Labour Party.**

A new political party has been formed in Toronto, the Independent Labour Party. The first plank in its platform is "Free Compulsory Education." This is an admirable policy, but as it has been in active operation in Ontario for many years, it does not appear to be a very real foundation for a new political party.

#### **Aid for Electric Smelting.**

Mr. Fielding announced in the House, on Wednesday night, that the iron and steel bounties resolution would be amended by providing special aid for electric smelting. This announcement will be received with interest by all concerned in the iron and steel production of Canada, and especially by those interested in the Soo industries.

#### **Fire and Earthquake.**

On Tuesday night, San Francisco was largely in darkness through the destruction by a serious fire of the power house of the Gas and Electric Company. By what must seem a strange coincidence to San Franciscans, a somewhat violent earthquake occurred in the same night at the Island of St. Michaels, in the Azores.

## **Insurance Items**

THE DETROIT CONFERENCE, including representatives of all casualty companies writing industrial accident and health insurance, last week adopted a standard form of policy submitted by a special committee, and all members of the conference will soon commence using the new form. The most important changes in the contract under the new form will be found in section "I," which is changed to read: "In the event of disability or illness resulting wholly or in part, directly or indirectly, from tuberculosis, rheumatism, paralysis, apoplexy, orchitis, neuritis, locomotor ataxia, hernia, lumbago, lame back, strains, sciatica, vaccination, dementia, or insanity, then in all such cases referred to in this paragraph, the limit of the company's liability shall be for a period not exceeding four weeks' benefit at the rate which would otherwise be payable under this policy, anything herein to the contrary notwithstanding." Section "F" has had substituted for it the following: "For each consecutive twelve months' premium paid annually in advance the benefits for specific losses under clause C of this policy shall be increased to per cent., but all such increases shall never exceed 50 per cent. of the benefits therein provided for any loss."

THE FOREIGN FIRE OFFICES COMMITTEE at a recent meeting in London, decided to cover loss or damage by fire, caused by earthquake, in the Dominion of Canada, the liability being assumed in a special rider for which an extra premium is charged. The additional rates for this hazard, as agreed upon, range between one-fourth of one per cent. and one per cent. It is expected that the British fire offices interested in the business of the Pacific Coast will submit the basis of the agreement for Canada to their American managers and that an understanding will soon be reached for the California business. This is in accord with the expressed wishes of the continental companies having commitments on the Coast.

THE LIFE UNDERWRITERS OF SASKATCHEWAN held a meeting at Regina, on Tuesday, which was addressed by T. G. McConkey, president of Dominion Life Insurance Underwriters' Association. Following Mr. McConkey's address it was decided to form a life underwriters' association for the province. The following officers were elected: President, C. C. Knight, of the Sun Life; vice-president, J. H. H. Young, of the Canada Life; secretary, J. W. Mowbray, of the Metropolitan; treasurer, W. L. Dodds, of the Continental.

THE HARTFORD STEAM BOILER INSPECTION & INSURANCE COMPANY has acquired a substantial control of the stock of the Boiler Inspection & Insurance Company of Canada. The latter which commenced business in 1875 has an authorized capital of \$500,000, a subscribed capital of \$100,000 and a paid-up capital of \$75,075; assets of about \$135,000 and insurance in force in excess of \$6,000,000. The executive officers and the entire staff have been retained by the Hartford's management.

THE CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION have leased offices in Nordheimer Building in this City, and will change their quarters in a few days. The new offices are commodious, and tastefully fitted up.