

Indictments have been found at St. John, N. B., against the two Weltons, Dr. Randall, and Reid for conspiracy to defraud life insurance companies in the graveyard transactions heretofore detailed in our columns. Their trial commences this week.

A new insurance company, authorized to transact fire, marine and inland marine business, and called the Chicago Insurance Company, has been licensed by the Illinois insurance department. Its paid up capital is \$100,000.

That double-page cartoon in the last Chicago *Insurance Post*, labelled the "National Life Underwriters Appeal to the 'Triumvirate,'" is an artistic success, but a still greater success as a graphic presentation of the true inwaddness of the rebate question.

We are informed by Manager Thompson of the Lancashire, that the total claims paid on the Hedleyville fire by that company amounted to \$99. In the list of adjusted losses printed in last issue the amount was given to us as \$8 000. We are glad to make the correction.

The Edison Electric Company has at last surrendered to the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, which refused certificates of approval for Edison instalments so long as grounded wires were used. The company now agrees to put in all its wires as required by Board rules.

The Manufacturers' Mutual Fire insurance company of Grand Rapids, Mich., now in the hands of a receiver, used to advertise a guarantee bond for \$100,000 as a part of the assets. Just before the company failed this bond was withdrawn, and the receiver is now suing the directors to make it good for \$30,000 of debts.

Statistics in the coroner's office at Cincinnati for Hamilton county, Ohio, show that for the year ending with June last there were in the county 217 deaths resulting from accident. Of these, 51 were killed by the railways and 17 by the streets cars. It is said that only three of the total number carried accident insurance.

The grand jury at Indianapolis has returned indictments against Freeman D. Somerby, supreme justice; Mark S. Davis, supreme cashier; J. L. Younghusband, J. H. Hayes, C. E. Thompson, Geo. C. Mountain, and E. W. Rouse, supreme trustees, of the Iron Hall, for embezzlement of the funds of the order.

A "Rent Insurance Company" has been projected at Edinburgh to insure against loss arising from property being untenanted, and from failure of tenants to pay rent, and to cover the expense of repairing the roofs of buildings accidentally injured or destroyed. Tenants are also to be insured, though against what we have not been informed.

The Baltimore Underwriter tells of a remarkable case of longevity—a Mrs. Elizabeth Stanton, who recently died at her home in Patton, Pennsylvania, aged 117 years. It is said that this age is fully authenticated by reliable records. Her grandfather was an Indian and her father a half-breed. She was twice married and had five children, three of whom are living, two having died of *old age*. At 80 years of age this woman worked in the harvest field, and two years ago walked twelve miles.

Speaking of the cotton-mill tariff in England, the *Policyholder* says: "The tariff is not a particularly simple one, but still its provisions should by this time be quite understandable. At the present time, intentionally or unintentionally, it is frequently broken, and we have good reason to believe that if this sort of thing continues much longer one, at least, of the big offices will cast its provisions to the winds and openly quote any rate it chooses."

A pension feature in accident insurance comes from New York as having been adopted by the Preferred Mutual Accident. For an additional premium of \$10 on a \$5,000 policy the company undertakes to pay, in addition to the face of the policy in case of accidental death (excepting in consequence of the wrecking of any conveyance in which the insured may be riding) a pension of ten dollars weekly to the beneficiary during life.

A year or more ago we briefly noted in these columns the equipment of the *Glasgow Herald* building with a series of pipes along the eaves, ridges and other portions of the roof, and at window openings, having open sprinklers at intervals of eight feet. The pipes can all or any of them be instantly filled with water from a reservoir. Recently a big fire occurred in an adjoining building, but proved perfectly harmless to the *Herald* building by reason of the roof drenchers.

A recent press despatch from the city of Mexico states that S. E. Halberstadt, formerly general agent of the New York Life, is an embezzler to the extent of about \$70,000, and has fled from the city. He was a good deal mixed up in mining and land schemes. According to the *Weekly Underwriter*, the officers of the New York Life state that Halberstadt left the company's service last September, and if any shortage exists in his accounts it will be small, and will fall upon Manager Sanchez who employed him.

A suit for criminal libel has been brought at San Francisco against Mr. A. G. Hawes, manager of the New York Life for the Pacific Coast, by P. O. Burns, a former agent, arrested at the instance of Hawes for embezzlement. The *Coast Review* says that Burns has a bad record and the insuring public should beware of him. Hawes had written letters to various parties, in which he characterized Burns as "a dangerous scoundrel," and "an insurance swindler of the worst kind."

An amendment to the constitution of the Pacific Fire Insurance Union has been submitted, providing that premiums, excepting on farm property, churches and school-houses, must be paid *in cash* within 30 days from the first day of the month following that on which the policy is written; and providing for a fine of \$25 in case the agent does not forward the premiums or cancel the unpaid policy within ten days after notice from the auditor of the Union to the delinquent shall have been given.

We have heard of several agents of the best life companies in Canada who have lately received "personal" letters from the Bankers' Life Association of Iowa, saying that their names had been given the general manager as persons "eminently qualified to fill a position which they have to offer." Doubtless a good many others have been approached in like manner. This method of seeking to get agents who are already connected with excellent companies here shows the straits to which this concern, which does business on the assessment plan, is reduced in order to drum up business. The association has no authority whatever to do business in Canada, and he would be a foolish man indeed who would go to a strange locality in another country to represent such a concern.