

the directors and three by the policyholders themselves.

A plate glass war is threatened in this city on account of the keen competition of those companies which are not in the plate glass agreement.

General Manager Robert Lewis, of the Alliance Assurance Company, of London, sailed for home on the first inst.

The Mutual Life Insurance Company has recently elected President Woodrow Wilson, of Princeton University, as a trustee.

The newer fire insurance agencies of this city are showing a rapid growth. That of Wallace Reid has made rapid strides, and is now taking on a new company, the Teutonia.

All will be interested in the revival of the old Greenwich Fire Insurance Company, which is to re-enter the field for business under the presidency of the veteran Mason A. Stone. The Greenwich retired shortly after 1904, on account of heavy losses suffered in the Baltimore conflagration.

Recent visitors in this city were Secretary W. R. Strong, of the London Guarantee & Accident Company, who has sailed for Europe; W. S. Warren, resident secretary of the Liverpool & London & Globe in Chicago, who was en route for home after his sojourn in Europe; and Vice-President Faymonville, of the Firemen's Fund Insurance Company.

Stock of the Home Insurance Company recently sold at auction in this city at 620½.

QUERIST.

New York, December 1, 1909.

MR. W. M. GERMAN, Liberal member for Welland Co., Ont., has given notice of motion in the House setting forth that the export of pulpwood should be at once prohibited so that the products should be manufactured in Canada, thus creating new industries and increasing opportunities of employment.

In this connection it is interesting to note that Congressman Mann will introduce a bill at Washington to provide that wood pulp and printing paper shall be admitted free of duty when imported from Canada, on the condition precedent that Canada or the province in which the wood pulp or printing paper is manufactured shall not forbid or restrict or impose any export duty or export license fee upon printing paper, mechanically ground wood pulp or wood used in the manufacture of wood pulp. They "need it in their business."

COMMISSIONER HARDISON, of Massachusetts, has notified the companies transacting credit insurance in that state, that they will be required to maintain increased reserves. A similar circular has also been issued by the New York department. The Massachusetts circular states that in future companies must charge as a liability for accrued losses on policies in force not less than 50 per cent. of the earned premiums thereon.

THE PORTO RICO RAILWAYS COMPANY reports that the company's property suffered practically no loss from the recent storm that passed over the island.

## Our London Letter.

### LORD LANSDOWNE'S BUDGET AMENDMENT.

**The Political Struggle will Adversely Affect Trade and Financial Activities—Lord Swaythling Predicts Extremely High Bank of England Rate as a Result of Pending Financial Disturbance—Recent Improvement in Bank's Position Fortifies it Somewhat However—Canadian Matters of Interest to London—Insurance Items—Special Correspondence of THE CHRONICLE for Week Ending November 20.**

The appearance of Lord Lansdowne's budget amendment on the House of Lords notice paper and the vigorous speeches on both sides which have followed it leave us in no shadow of doubt that we are in for one of the biggest political fights within living memory. By the time this letter appears in print, the amendment will doubtless have passed its second reading. The political student, no doubt, will compare this political conflict with the struggle over Mr. Gladstone's first Home Rule Bill, but with that exception we have had nothing like the present stir for many years past. Whatever the result of the fight may be, two things, when the matter is viewed from the financial and commercial standpoint, are clear. First, that the general upheaval caused by the General Election in January with the strain and excitement preceding it, will affect injuriously many classes of the country's trade (and this injury will not be altogether offset by the artificial stimulus given to other trades for a few weeks) and, secondly, that no activity can be expected in financial circles until the fight has passed more or less into history.

### An Anxious Outlook.

Those engaged in finance, whatever their political convictions, look forward indeed to the immediate future with undisguised anxiety. Lord Swaythling, than whom among city counsellors no one is held in more respect, has gone so far as to say that the financial chaos and disturbance involved by the Lords' rejection of the Budget, will inflict upon us the almost unbearable burden of a ten per cent. bank rate, a thing that we have not heard of since the darkest days of 1866, when Overend Gurney's smashed. One would fain believe that on this occasion Lord Swaythling's political views have coloured his financial perspective and that no such drastic process of restoring financial order will be necessary. As things are at present, no one can foretell exactly what financial action will be taken. It is, at all events, clear that speculative business, upon which the majority of members of the Stock Exchange depend for their living, will be non-existent for some time to come, and should, as may quite reasonably be anticipated, a big "bear" attack come, what will there be to enable markets to resist it? A Government loan, which is also within the bounds of probability, by diverting resources which might be employed elsewhere, would add still further to the depression. It seems, indeed, that not only