

**POLITICS AND TYPHOID.**

In several recent issues of THE CHRONICLE, attention has been directed to many cases of proceedings being taken against civic officials for disregard of the public health. The extraordinary mortality from an outbreak of typhoid fever in the City of Brotherly Love, has aroused the indignation of its usually peaceful people to such an extent that they have been threatening to bring a charge of manslaughter against Insurance Commissioner Durham, for blocking a bill authorizing a loan for improving the city's water-works. The Philadelphia "Ledger" thus tells a story of civic politics and typhoid fever:—

The only remarkable thing about the admission of Insurance Commissioner Durham that he had instigated the proceedings in equity to have the \$11,200,000 loan bill declared illegal is that he should have made such a confession. Mr. Durham alleges that he instigated the proceedings and paid the expenses in order to prevent the expenditure of the money by the administration of Mayor Warwick, and expresses gratification that the loan has been declared legal, now that Mr. Ashbridge has succeeded Mr. Warwick as Mayor.

If the loan had been issued more than a year ago, as would have been the case but for the law's delay, the water-works would have been improved, and by the beginning of the present year we should have had filtered water for a part of the city, and such an increase in storage capacity as would have permitted a longer time for subsidence and a consequent improvement of the water supply. As nothing was done, polluted water was pumped into the service pipes and 6,000 cases of typhoid fever resulted, the mortality from that preventable disease exceeding 650.

The man who held up the loan can justly be held responsible for much of the distress caused by the sickness and for the loss of life resulting therefrom; it is not possible to indict Mr. Durham for manslaughter on the strength of his confession, since it would be impossible to furnish legal proof that any one was killed because the loan bill was held up; but it may be possible to indict Mr. Durham, or some of his tools, for other offences against the law arising out of his case. It is quite clear, from Mr. Durham's statement, that he entered into a conspiracy to deceive the court by engaging in litigation for the sole purpose of delay. It is quite clear also that if Mr. Durham's statement is correct Robert J. Barr, jr., who has put forward as one of the litigants, committed perjury when he made affidavit that the appeal was not made to the Supreme Court for the purpose of delay.

**NOTES AND ITEMS.**

**FIRE BRIGADES.**—Mr. Guy Pym's Fire Brigade Bill which he introduced into Parliament recently is a welcome measure, and the Select Committee to which it was referred will probably formulate a bill to ensure the efficiency of provincial fire brigades throughout England. The measure is not to extend to Scotland or Ireland in the meantime, but whatever

beneficial provisions it may contain will doubtless find their way north of the Tweed in due course. In many of the urban as well as the rural districts of England the protection against fire is of a very inefficient character, and Mr. Pym asserted that for several years a number of bogus brigades, which had no plant, but possessed a uniform, had been going about the country collecting subscriptions. The object of the Bill is to have a body of Government Inspectors provided to annually inspect the state and efficiency of fire brigades and appliances, and to report thereon to the Local Government Board. No new powers are asked for, as there are Acts of Parliament in existence for charging rates with the expense of fully equipping and maintaining the necessary brigades. The Committee is expected to produce a Bill which will give satisfaction to the National Fire Brigade Union, and we hope also to Insurance Companies.—The "Scottish Critic."

**THE ACTUARIAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA.**—At the recent session of the decennial meeting of the Actuarial Society of America, in New York, 65 out of 112 members were present.

The following officers were elected: President, Thomas B. Macaulay, of the Sun Life Assurance Company of Montreal; first vice-president, Oscar B. Ireland, Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company, Springfield, Mass.; second vice-president, Israel C. Pierson, Washington Life Insurance Company, New York; secretary, J. Tatlock, Jr., Mutual Life Insurance Company, New York; treasurer, John B. Lunger, New York Life Insurance Company, New York.

**Obituary****MR. FRANK KENNEDY.**

*"None named thee but to praise!"*

Every one who had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Frank Kennedy, the Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia in this city for the past seven years, will hear with sorrowful astonishment of his death, which occurred yesterday afternoon. A few days ago, he contracted a severe cold, and, despite careful nursing and skillful medical attendance, he failed to rally therefrom. Mr. Frank Kennedy was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, about thirty-six years ago. After serving a short time in one of the local banks, he entered the service of the Bank of Nova Scotia. His marked ability quickly attracted attention, and so rapid was his promotion that, at the early age of thirty, he was appointed manager of the bank's most important branch.

Mr. Kennedy was universally esteemed by the bank's clients, and enjoyed the sincere friendship of a large number of our citizens. Simple and natural in manner, he had that courtesy of demeanour, which springs, not so much from studied politeness, as from a mild and gentle heart.

The strongest sympathy of many friends will be extended to his grief-stricken wife and children and sorrowing relatives.