

Notes and Items.

The St. Paul (Minn.) German Fire insurance company has gone into voluntary liquidation.

The new edition of Flitcraft's Manual (1892) will be ready in a few days. For sale at the INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE office, as usual.

The *Palatine*, we understand, is now making arrangements to obtain a licence to do business in the Dominion. It doubtless intends to take over the City of London agents.

The next annual meeting of the "National Convention of Mutual Life and Accident Underwriters," composed of assessment associations, will meet at Buffalo this year on June 28 to July 1.

The regular life companies wrote \$33,601,753 of new insurance in Massachusetts in 1891, against \$36,380,401 in 1890—a decrease of \$2,778,648. The increase of the industrials was \$1,060,303.

Russian statistics, said to be official, place the total number of fires in Russia for 27 years ending with 1887, at 782,353 and the total property loss at \$350,000,000, or about \$13,000,000 per year, on the average.

Our enterprising contemporary, the *Chronicle* of New York, has done itself credit in the issue of "Portraits of Insurance Men" in neat form and well executed. As there are 183 of them, the family is pretty fully represented.

The number of fires attended during 1891 by the Baltimore salvage corps was 428, of which 14 were extinguished by the corps, which spread a total of 1,035 covers. The insurance involved was \$2,989,613 and the insurance loss \$625,098; total loss \$712,945.

The 1891 business of the Commercial Union insurance company shows over \$5,000,000 in net fire premiums, the amount exceeding that of the previous year by about \$424,000. The marine business was such as to allow the transfer of \$175,000 to the profit and loss account.

The *Palatine's* annual statement shows that the net fire premiums for 1891 were \$1,837,810 and the losses \$1,255,995. The total income in the fire branch was \$1,877,660 and the total expenditure \$1,841,335, leaving a balance of \$36,325. The paid up capital is \$600,000, and the balance of revenue account \$618,590.

After waiting two weeks, the *Journal of Commerce* serves up to its readers, as a reply (?) to our article entitled "The Slanderer Uncloaked," a column and a half of billingsgate, without touching the question at issue with a single fact. This is just what was to be expected, and requires no comment.

The New York Tariff Association has decided upon the very important step of having attached hereafter to every policy on a rated risk the following eighty per cent. clause:—

If at the time of the fire the whole amount of the insurance on the property covered by this policy shall be less than eighty per cent. of the actual cash value thereof, this company shall, in case of loss or damage, be liable for only such portion of such loss or damage as the amount insured by this policy shall bear to the said eighty per cent. of the actual cash value of such property.

Of the 29 life companies reporting to the Connecticut insurance department for 1891, twenty habitually report premium notes taken. Of these, 12 show a decrease in notes taken during the year, 9 of which also reported a decrease in 1890. The net decrease of all the companies in 1891 was \$340,289 and in 1890 \$492,657.

The contrast shown between the 1891 fire loss of the United States and Canada of \$137,000,000, and the \$16,000,000 credited to France, \$35,000,000 to England, and \$30,000,000 to Germany, is suggestive. The *Times* of New York is responsible for the figures for the three European countries named, but their accuracy is very questionable.

We see that notice has been given in the Quebec *Official Gazette* of application to the Government for powers to create an association for the assistance of working men and women prevented by sickness, accident or enforced respite from labor from providing for their maintenance. The proposed directors are prominent contractors of Montreal, and the capital stock \$12,000.

Upon the resumption of his office as cashier of the New York Life the other day, Mr. Banta received quite an ovation from the office staff. By the way, we notice that the insurance editors who delighted in kicking at Mr. Banta when they thought he was down are eating their crow, pretending, like the boy compelled to eat green persimmons by way of punishment, that they like it.

The State Fire Insurance Co. of Liverpool, organized last year, has lately secured, through the Chancery Court, the amendment of its articles of association, so as to authorize it to extend its investments to trust investments under the Trusts Act of 1889 and to foreign countries and the United States. Does this foreshadow the advent of the company on this side the water at an early day?

Some time ago the Philadelphia *Inquirer* adopted the plan of agreeing to pay indemnity for accidents to persons having in their possession at the time of injury a copy of that journal, whereupon Insurance Commissioner Luper had the proprietors arraigned in court for prosecuting an accident insurance business without authority. Judge McPherson has decided that the practice is illegal under its charter.

It is suspected that the fire which consumed a house in Seattle, Washington, recently, whereby one Radloff perished in the flames, was set to cover the murder of the unfortunate man, who was insured for \$30,000 in the Equitable, \$20,000 in the New York Life, and \$15,000 in the Mutual Life. A man named Louis Krostruch, who had been working for Radloff, and who, it is claimed, was in love with the latter's wife, has been arrested on suspicion.

It is well known that the United Fire and the *Palatine* insurance companies issue joint policies and are practically under the same management. Referring to this, Lieut.-Col. Brooke, chairman, at the recent annual meeting of the United Fire, said:—

It might be said, if the relations of the two companies are so close, why not amalgamate? The state of the law in America has been the chief obstacle in the way of their amalgamation. Efforts had not been wanting to remove that obstacle, and at the present moment correspondence was taking place which it was hoped would lead to some arrangement under which the United and *Palatine* would be enabled to unite and carry on the business to the advantage of both companies at a reduced expenditure.