NEW YORK INSURANCE LETTER.

New York, July 1, 1903.

The announcement is finally made that the Prudential Insurance Company will relinquish all endeavour to make a stock combination with the Fidelity Trust Company, of Newark. This is the case that attracted so much attention last fall and winter, and the company was in some quarters severely criticized for its endeavour to tie its stock up in a manner which might be detrimentl or unjust to its policyholders. Upon objection to the plan by minority interests in the stock, the case was argued before the Chancellor, and the company was defeated, but appealed. It has been generally expected that the Prudential would push the case vigorously, and with the view of eventually carrying out its plans. Perhaps the best interests of all will be served by the course which it has now taken.

The fire companies are having quite a favourable experience during the first six months, but it is feared that the benefit of this experience may not show in the semi-annual statements to be prepared as of July 1. The prices of stocks and other securities have experienced such a decided relaxation during the past few months that the influence upon the assets and surplus of the companies cannot fail to be considerable. Perhaps it is well that the companies cannot have their good luck all at one time. It might make them so independent and "high-minded" that they could not stand their prosperity, and would be inclined to fall into still more evil ways.

As predicted in this correspondence several months ago, the endeavour of Mr. P. B. Armstrong to organize a great fire insurance company to be conducted along lines peculiar to himself, has apparently failed. Mr. Armstrong is lying in the background, and has not been heard from lately. The man upon whom he chiefly depended, Mr. J. R. McCay, who was formerly a well-known local manager, has deserted Mr. Armstrong and is now engaged in organizing, on his own account, a large company to be known as the Independent Fire Insurance Company. We think that Mr. McCay's prospects are much better than those of Mr. Armstrong ever were, although the former is not yet prepared to make a definite announcement of his success. The Universal Mercantile Schedule, or, as it is commonly called, the "Schedule," while the theory underlying it is acknowledged to be sound, is not making so great progress as its friends could desire. The trouble seems to be with the immense complication and jumble of figures involved in its application to individual cases. Many are, therefore, disposed to question whether there is really any advantage in the schedule plan over the old system of rating by local boards in the various towns and districts provided with such organizations. In the opinion of the writer the schedule plan will yet prevail, but some method must be devised for simplifying it, or else a corps of instructors may have to be appointed to tour the country and explain its details.

Mr. George H. Marks, formerly well known in this country as United States Manager of the London Assurance Corporation, was seen upon the New York streets recently.

Col. A. H. Wray, manager of the Commercial Union, has been touring the South in the interest of his company.

The North British loses a good man in Chicago in the resignation, as assistant manager, of Mr. Howard DeMott. United States Manager Richards has been in Chicago conferring with Manager Littlejohn as to Mr. DeMott's successor.

A step forward is announced by the Equitable Life and the Mutual Benefit Life, which will hereafter insure female risks upon nearly the same basis as that upon which men are taken.—Querist.

(For Toronto Letter, see page 943.)

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM MCCABE.—In addressing the Institute of Actuaries, at the annual meeting, in London, on 8th ult., the distinguished actuary, Mr. R. Price Hardy said: "Mr. McCabe, of Toronto, was also well known personally to me. He was a variously accomplished man, not merely in actuarial matters, but in others, and one who, in the midst of the severe competition there prevailing, preserved that professional soundness and stability that is at once the standard of this Institute and its pride."

STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES.

Tuesday, p.m., June 30, 1903.

Dominion Day occuring to-morrow the present week only consisted of 4 days' trading. The volume of business however, exceeds that transacted in the full sessions last week, a steady market has generally maintained, and the improvement which has been taking place for some time past has continued. Stocks are firm at the close, and the feeling is that next month somewhat better prices may be expected. Of course it is generally conceeded that it is not reasonable to expect any very rapid advance, but a gradual improvement in values is looked for. Montreal Power was a favourite stock this week, and a good demand for the security has been in evidence, the price has been well maintained, and inclined to advance. The traction stocks were fairly active with the exception of Toronto Railway, in which the transactions were small. This stock, however, has held firm, and seems somewhat inclined to hold for better prices. Richelieu & Ontario has continued strong, and a further advance has taken place in the stock. The securirities of the Dominion Steel Company advanced during the early part of the week, and a good gain was made, especially in the preferred stock, which sold up to 62 yesterday morning. There was a sharp break from this point, however, and before the close of the afternoon Board a decline of 11½ points had taken place. The bonds also suffered a reaction, and after selling up to 76½ touched 70; closing bid to-day was 72. Nova Scotia Steel Common and Dominion Coal Common remained fairly steady, and both closed over the quotation prevailing a week ago. Money advanced in New York to day, and 8 per cent. was reached for accommodation over the end of the month. This, however, is looked upon as a temporary condition, and after the dividend disbursements of the 1st of July are distributed, it is expected that money will return to normal conditions. It is also felt that circumstances in New York have changed for the better, and a somewhat more settled condition is expected to maintain from now on. There are possibilities of disturbances in the stock market when demands for money in connection with the crop movement set in in the fall, but there should be a good trading market between now and the 1st of September. From the present outlook it seems to us that it would be advisable to lighten commitments before the demands for mone from the interior commence to be felt.

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Money on call in New York to-day was quoted at 5½ per cent. and the London rate was 2 to 2½. Locally money continues from 5 to 5½ per cent., the latter being the prevailing rate.

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The trading in C.P.R. this week amounted to 2,350 shares. The stock closed with 124¾ bid, a net gain of 3¼