

Insurance Items.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION of the International Association of Accident Underwriters will be held at Bretton Woods, N.H., September 20 to 23, inclusive.

THE AMERICAN LUMBER COMPANY of Albuquerque, N.M., with values of over a million insured in the stock companies, is equipping its plants with automatic sprinklers in the mill and hydrants in the yards at a cost of about \$50,000.

A \$1,000,000 LIFE POLICY was taken in Chicago last week by Arthur S. Ford, treasurer of a cement company. The premiums are to be paid by the company, the idea being to protect those who are financially interested in it. This is stated to be one of the largest life insurance lines ever placed in Chicago.

A BILL is being pushed through the Louisiana legislature placing a tax of 1 per cent. on fire insurance premiums paid to foreign companies doing business in the State. The fund thus created, about \$2,000 a year, is to be disbursed "for increasing the efficiency of the fire departments in the cities, towns and villages of the State."

THE YORKSHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY has let the contract for the erection of its new building on St. James Street near St. Francois Xavier Street. Operations have already been commenced and the present building is now being demolished. From all the information we can gather the building will be a handsome one and do credit to the Yorkshire.

THE PACIFIC COAST MARINE BUSINESS for 1909 was profitable for the companies writing the largest volume of business, although three of the fourteen companies writing generally had loss ratios of over 100 p.c. The Fireman's Fund led with premiums of \$478,246 and a loss ratio of 44.3, followed by the Switzerland Marine with premiums of \$228,807 and a loss ratio of 51.4, and the Insurance Company of North America with premiums of \$185,929 and a loss ratio of 70.7.

IT APPEARS THAT THE FIRE MARSHAL frequently has no knowledge of small New York city fires for which public alarms are not given, writes the New York Journal of Commerce; yet he may be interested in a larger proportion of these fires than of others. The New York Board of Fire Underwriters is kept informed on the results of the work of the Fire Marshal, who now asks its co-operation to the extent of furnishing the information asked for on a blank, which is now being sent to the members of the board. It is particularly desired by the Board that members notify the Fire Marshal of fires coming to their notice which are not reported by the Fire Patrol or the Fire Department. Two blanks have been prepared, one addressed to the Fire Marshal in charge of the Boroughs of Manhattan, Broux and Richmond, the other to the Fire Marshal in charge of the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, and these are being distributed to the fire insurance companies by the New York Board of Fire Underwriters.

Personals

MR. W. J. TURPIN, president of the Montreal Stock Exchange, sails to-day, by the "Laurentic" for Europe. He is taking a three months' trip in England and on the Continent.

MR. I. GOLDMAN, of Toronto, managing director of the North American Life Assurance Company spent a few days in Montreal during this week. It will be remembered that Mr. Goldman spent some weeks in the South for the benefit of his health, from whence he returned last April. He has now quite recovered and looks the picture of health. He states that the business of the North American Life is making excellent progress.

MR. WILLIAM MACKENZIE, president of the Canadian Northern Railway, interviewed on his return from Europe, expressed the hope that within four years the Canadian Northern would be a trans-continental system, having a continuous line of railway from Quebec, Montreal and Toronto, to the Pacific Coast. Mr. Mackenzie confirmed the statement that he had been successful in obtaining \$40,000,000 in London and Brussels for the various enterprises in which he is interested.

ALDERMAN H. W. TWIGGS, chairman of the Docks Committee of Bristol, England, sailed yesterday for home in the "Royal George." Alderman Twiggs, who came over here to find out how the trade relations of Bristol and the St. Lawrence ports can be improved, has spent a fortnight in the West and returns enthusiastic over Canada's resources and prospects. Alderman Twiggs proposes to lecture in England upon Western Canada, and to agitate for the sending out here of a number of Bristol merchants in order that they may see for themselves the opportunities for trade in Canada.

MR. GEORGE PURCHON, fire manager of the Omnium Insurance Corporation, Limited, of London, was in Montreal last week *en route* to New York from whence he sails for Great Britain. Mr. Purchon has visited several cities in the United States and Canada and went as far West as Winnipeg. He was greatly impressed with the prosperity and growth which was in evidence everywhere. The Omnium is a non-tariff office having an authorized capital of £1,000,000; subscribed £200,000 and paid up £100,000. It transacts business in Fire, Life, Fidelity, Burglary, Accident, Live Stock, Motors, Plate Glass, etc.

MR. W. H. COOK, manager of the Bank of Egypt, Limited, London, expects to visit Montreal during the next week or ten days. When Mr. Cook took a short tour in Canada a couple of years ago he made good use of his camera and took several photographs of interesting scenery. He subsequently on his return to London delivered some lectures on Canada during his spare evening hours to schools and others, and he has thus in a practical manner advertised Canada and shown its possibilities for immigrants. The best emigration agent for Canada is the old countryman who has been here and speaks to people who know him of what he knows.