

endeavor to correct, improve and soften them. So may the New Year be a Happy one to you, and Happy to many more whose Happiness depends on You."

CHRISTMAS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

It would have been almost correct to head this item Christmas Literature, such a variety of letters, cards, books, papers, calendars, telegrams and telephone messages were found on the editor's desk after his brief Christmas vacation. These are welcome; some of them beautiful and others useful, they well deserve recognition. But it is desired to make acknowledgment besides, of what is better than the mere material object, and that is the kindly spirit with which some of them have been offered; the grateful tone of the letters received; the avowal on the part of sender or writer of a belief that this journal has done faithful work and has proved a satisfactory guide or adviser. This, while it adds to one's feeling of responsibility, is pleasing recompense for trouble undertaken.

The Christmas card of Mr. R. Wilson Smith, editor and publisher of the *Insurance and Finance Chronicle* of Montreal, contains the simple but pregnant words: "With Sincere Good-will."

From the good old Standard Life Assurance Company comes one of their neat vest-pocket memorandum books, in which one can make notes every day in the year.

From Messrs. W. & E. Badenach, the city agents, comes a year's keepsake in the form of a minute pocket diary, issued by the Union Fire Assurance Company.

A generous-looking calendar, the letters and figures of which one needs no glass to distinguish at a distance, is sent us by Mr. Robert Hampson, general agent for Canada of the Insurance Company of North America. Mr. George J. Pyke is Toronto agent. Another large and plain calendar is that of the Mercantile of Berlin.

"Are you insured?" is the personal question by which Messrs. Muntz & Beatty approach the public in the calendar for 1894 of the Queen Insurance Company of America. And they urge that one should insure and should insure in the Queen, which has \$256,000 deposited at Ottawa for the benefit of Canadian policy holders.

Red and gold are the colors chosen for the calendar of the Lancashire Insurance Company of England, of the Canada fire branch of which Mr. J. G. Thompson is manager, and Messrs. Love & Hamilton, Toronto agents.

It is not so much because the Right Honorable Lord Rothschilds is chairman, and because the capital is twenty-five millions of dollars, that we receive with pleasure a pretty little morocco souvenir from the Reliance Insurance Company. It is rather because it has Canadian representatives such as G. H. McHenry in Montreal and George McMurrieh in Toronto.

INSURANCE NOTES.

"Can I change my occupation under the terms of this insurance policy?"

"What do you wish to be?"

"A football player."

"No, you cannot change."

"Can I become a Brazilian insurgent?"

"Yes."—*Life*.

Messrs. E. A. Whitehead & Co., general insurance brokers, whose offices are in the

Temple building, Montreal, are the regular authorized agents of the John A. Grose Electric Protection Company.

A telegram from Sackville, N.B., dated Saturday last, says that Fawcett's foundry was completely destroyed by fire at 3 o'clock in the morning, and with it the moulding shop, nickel rooms, furnace and engines. The fire originated from a watchman's stove. There was no water supply and nothing was saved except the surrounding buildings. The loss is principally from the destruction of the patterns and machinery, amounting to over \$75,000. There is very little insurance. Forty men are thrown out of employment.

The fire which broke out in the new opera house at Woodstock, Ont., on the 23rd inst., resulted in the entire destruction of the building. It was built only a year ago at a cost of \$26,000, and was insured for \$10,000 in the Commercial Union, Royal and Western Insurance Companies.

The great number of disasters that have occurred to steel steamers during the past season has set Capt. E. M. Peck, of Detroit, to thinking. The bottom of his steel boat, No. 118, now being built at Wyandotte, will be sheathed with a covering of five inch white oak plank, fastened on by screw bolts. She will have the advantage of a composite steamer with the added strength imparted by steel plates. It was intended to launch the boat before Christmas, but this change will delay that event until April. While the carrying capacity of the boat will be affected, Capt. Peck expects to make it up by getting more favorable insurance rates.—*Marine Record*.

PATENT RECORD.

The following list of United States patents granted to Canadian inventors Dec. 12, 1893, is reported expressly for THE MONETARY TIMES by James Sangster, Solicitor of Patents, Buffalo, N. Y.:

James Abell, Toronto, steam engine.

George Coxon, Toronto, seat spring.

David A. Grant, Raleigh, land-roller.

Charles J. McLennon, Toronto, agitator for mixed paints (3 patents).

Charles J. McLennon, Toronto, strainer for mixed paints.

James Robertson, assignor of one-half to A. B. Rudd, and H. H. Neilson, Perth, sash holder.

Augustus R. Woodyatt, Guelph, lawn mower.

Total issue, including patents, designs, trade marks and re-issues, 507.

—The wide-spread disturbance caused by a strike on a large scale, is illustrated by the statement of the *Glasgow Herald*, a sensible journal, not given to exaggeration, that the shopkeepers in Scotland have lost about \$18,000,000 in trade as the result of the great coal strike. There can be no wonder that serious consequences are apprehended from the enormous shrinkage of business. The circle of trouble, and possibly distress, caused by this wide strike, will extend far beyond the families of the miners themselves, dreadful as their sufferings must have been.

—With respect to the condition of winter trade around Brandon, Manitoba, the White-law Trading Company, who are grocers and provision dealers in that town, write us on the 23rd as under: "Our Christmas trade was the best for some years, although there was a little general complaint of things being quieter than they generally are."

—To fill the vacancy on their board caused by the lamented death of Sir John Abbott, the directors of the Bank of Montreal have chosen Mr. Andrew F. Gault a director. The choice is a good one. Mr. Gault is one of the best known citizens of Montreal, an honorable man, an able merchant and an important representative of large manufacturing interests.

—The directors of the Eastern Townships Bank have declared a half-yearly dividend of 3½ per cent. The vacancy on the board occasioned by the lamented death of Mr. D. A. Mansur, was filled by the appointment of Capt. John G. Foster, late vice-president of the Derby Line National Bank.

Correspondence.

DISASTERS ON THE LAKES.

Editor MONETARY TIMES:

SIR,—I have seen what you said in last week's paper about the dangers of the Great Lakes, and especially the story of the shameful wreck of that fine steamer, the "F. W. Wheeler." I send you herewith the story as it is told by a queer satirist in the Port Huron *Sunday World*:

"The marine trotter 'F. W. Wheeler,' with a trotter for a captain, went ashore near Michigan City; had 2,200 tons of coal; was running twelve miles an hour; brought up on the beach all standing like a cooper's horse; will prove a total loss; 140,000 dollars, all caused by prohibition foolishness, as the trotter hung on to a belaying pin; had not the courage to heave the lead or swing a bottle of gin; but exclaimed, 'who would have thought it;' the ship out of her course near 40 miles; the compass wrong, and my name is 'pants' for ever more as sure as you are born; so away to the hayfield I'll make a wake and study wisdom with my aunt."

It is no subject for joking; it ought to be a subject for drum-head court-martial, and would be if it were a military matter. This captain drives ahead in December weather at 12 miles an hour and never takes soundings. Here is the total loss of as fine a steel steamer as a yard ever turned out, and expense (to somebody) of \$140,000. There should be some punishment for such carelessness.

A LAKE CAPTAIN.

Toronto, Dec. 29th, 1893.

BOND AND INVESTMENT FRAUDS TO GET NO MORE MAIL.

The United States authorities have determined to suppress the bond and investment companies which are operating all over the country. Post office Inspector Stuart, at Chicago, received from Washington last week a list of over fifty concerns operating in much the same manner as the Guarantee Investment Company of Chicago, whose officers were convicted in Judge Grosscup's court. Accompanying the list was a communication from the chief post office inspector at Washington, stating that the companies named had been investigated by Assistant Attorney General Thomas, and had been pronounced by him fraudulent, and not entitled to the privileges of the United States mails. Inspector Stuart was instructed to direct the postmasters in this district not to deliver any of their registered letters or money orders. He was also directed to secure evidence against any of the companies operating here or anywhere else in the West, and prosecute them under the law forbidding lotteries, and the act forbidding the use of the mails for swindling purposes. The companies included in the list are as follows, some of them being virtually branches of the same concern, but operating in the different sections of the country: [Here follows a list of some fifty companies.]

Inspector Stuart was instructed that any change in the plan of operation by these companies is not to be allowed to change their status before the post-office authorities. Abandoning the bond "maturity" plan will not save them from prosecution, if evidence can be secured that they have heretofore violated the