

TYPE SETTERS are often unconscious humourists. This week we wrote in reference to the great heat: "The city thermometers showed unanimity in recording a temperature exceeding record of 20 years." This when put into type read: "The city thermometers showed *animosity* in recording etc.!" Certainly they might be suspected of an intention to do us all bodily harm.

NEW ZEALAND INSURANCE COMPANY stocks are at considerable premiums. The following shows amount paid, price of stock and last dividend.

	Paid up.			Price.			Divided.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
The National.....	10	0		18	9		12½ per cent.
The New Zealand.....	2	0	4	0	0		12½ per cent.
do Accident.....	10	0	1	16	6		10 per cent.
South British.....	1	0	4	0	0		20 per cent.
Standard.....	15	0		17	0		7½ per cent.

ON THE HOMESTEAD HOTEL, HOT SPRINGS, Va., burnt on 3rd inst., there was \$222,500 insurance on the building, and \$72,750 on contents, use and occupancy, a total of \$295,250. On the Hoen property, Baltimore, burnt on 4th inst., there was insurance for \$184,000. On the Carter Ink Co.'s plant, Boston, damaged to extent of \$25,000 on 4th, there was insurance for \$87,500. This month made a bad beginning.

THE CANADA FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS, LTD., has declared a dividend of 7 per cent., for ½ year ending 30th June last, payable on 1st August. The transfer books will be closed from 20th to 31st inst. The Company is doing a very satisfactory and growing business; it has exported goods to Tasmania and Great Britain, in which latter market the sales are promising to be large.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES in MASSACHUSETTS. From a table in "Insurance Report" of Massachusetts, we learn that the life companies operating therein had a gross income last year of \$383,870,569, gross outlay, \$256,304,442; gross assets \$1,628,672,442; gross liabilities, \$1,371,371,518. The aggregate surplus as regards policyholders at end of 1900 was \$257,300,924 as against, \$188,649,693 in 1849. The total insurance in force was, \$8,300,629,619 of which \$1,377,468,528 was in Industrial Companies.

ONE OF THE MOST PECULIAR ACCIDENTS ever reported, happened not long ago, according to the "Spectator," to one of the porters employed in carrying tourists in a chair from the upper station on the railway to the Cave of Vesuvius. He ventured alone too near the top of the volcano, and, hearing an extra loud explosion, looked up. A shower of red hot stones fell around him, and one entered his mouth, which was open, inflicting a serious wound. The moral, we suppose, is learn to keep your mouth shut when a volcano is near, which is open to a double interpretation.

THE OCEAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION have published figures regarding claims made since the Workman's Compensation Act come

into force, non-fatal claims settled in following ½ years show serious increase in rate of compensation: In ½ year 1st July to end of 1898, 3,793 claims were settled at £3 14s 10d per claim, 1st January to 30th June 1899, 5,238, at £5 4s 9d; 1st July to end of 1899, 5,616, at £5 12s 4d; 1st January to 30th June, 1900, 6,114 at £6 2s 2d, and 2nd ½ of 1900 6,955 at £6 19s 1d. The increase is attributed to the amount which it is necessary to pay in order to settle cases of disablement.

INSURANCE LOSSES this year have been unusually heavy in many parts of the world. Montreal has had serious fires; in the States there was the Jacksonville conflagration; in England, the Manchester fire; in the continent of Europe the fires at Antwerp, St. Petersburg, and other cities in New Zealand and Australia unusually numerous and large fires; in South Africa, Durban suffered heavily; in Sumatra, Buenos Ayres, Cuba, Porto Rico and Mexico, the fires this year have been very serious. The New-York "Finance Chronicle," which gives them in more detail, thinks the profits of the British companies will be seriously affected by the prevalence of fires over so wide an area.

THE FIRE LOSSES over \$10,000 last month, included in the total of \$9,599,000, do not bring Canada into prominence. They are, Parry Sound, lumber yard, \$90,000; Whitby hardware store, \$18,000; Galena, floor mills, \$15,000; Vancouver, lumber, \$45,000; Montreal, clothing store, \$22,000; pipe foundry and wheel factory, \$100,000; lumber yard, \$22,000; Bruce, mining shaft; \$35,000; St. John's, underwear factory, \$40,000; Bathurst, \$50,000; French River, lumber, \$200,000; Belleville, Lake steamer, \$15,000. The above aggregate \$650,000, but of course this falls considerably short of the fire loss of Canada in June, as only fires of over \$10,000 are included. If 15 per cent. is added for small fires the total is raised to \$747,500 which is comparatively a moderate amount.

THE INFLUENCE OF THE ADJUSTER on the premium income of an agency is material. Some adjusters are prone to look upon every loss as a dishonest one, and to make the claimant prove to the contrary before they will relinquish the idea. I congratulate myself on not having, as yet, at least, arrived at this state. I still believe that there are people in this world who have honest losses, and also believe that they are in the majority rather than the minority. Believing a man honest until he shows himself to be dishonest is a good rule to follow in the settlement of losses, as well as in other matters in life. A close, technical adjustment by an ill-tempered adjuster may save the company a few dollars, and at the same time result in tearing down a premium income that has been the work of years to build up. The payment of losses is as much a part of the business as taking the premium, and they should be adjusted promptly and pleasantly, thereby making a friend of the claimant, and business for the company. Certainly no company wishes to pay out its money for losses and at the same time lose the good-will of an honest claimant. Oftentimes one adjuster will pay as much, or