

lucrative trade. One pleasant feature in the business aspect of British Columbia is the rapid recovery being made by the city of Westminster after being swept out by fire on the 10th September, 1898. Our advices from that place are very encouraging. The city is being rebuilt in a far more substantial manner than before, new enterprises are being established, and the citizens' hopes of future prosperity are very buoyant. The Yukon gold fields have been of great benefit to British Columbian trade, and as they develop will continue to be so. Its own mines have in them every prospect of such rich yields as will place the Province in the front rank for the value of mineral productions. Altogether, we are justified in predicting for our western Province a bright future of increasing trade activity and wealth.

NEW ACCIDENT CO.—It is rumoured that the credit Assurance & Guarantee Corporation, Ltd., London, Eng., contemplate opening a branch office in Canada. General Manager F. J. Lee Smith is expected in Montreal to-day.

PERSONAL.

MR. H. STIKEMAN, General Manager Bank of British North America, is expected in Montreal to-day, on his return from Great Britain.

Obituary

MR. MARTIN BENNETT.

We record with extreme regret the death of Mr. Martin Bennett, Manager of the Scottish Union and National and the Lion Fire for the United States and Canada. The sad event took place on the 6th instant, at his residence, Hartford, Conn. The deceased gentleman has been a very prominent and commanding figure in insurance circles, practically since 1860, in which year he acted as general agent for the Connecticut Fire, afterwards its Secretary, and in 1872, he became President of the company. In 1880, Mr. Bennett received the appointment of resident manager for the two British Companies for the entire United States and Canada. He was born in Rhode Island some 65 years ago, and was a graduate of Brown University. Mr. Bennett was one of the ablest, most successful and best known of Fire Underwriters on the continent. His wonderfully keen perception, and intuition, enabled him to use sound judgment in the selection of agents, and other officials, thereby adding to the success of his companies.

THE CHRONICLE joins in expressions of sorrow with the deceased gentleman's numerous friends on both sides of the Atlantic at the removal of one whose disposition, ability and integrity won for him the esteem of all who came in contact with him in business.

The funeral will take place to-morrow, at 2.30 o'clock.

The Royal Insurance Company is under examination by the New York Insurance Department.

Springwater, N. Y., was all but burnt out on 2nd ult., having no fire protection; the citizens thought the name wet enough to stop fires.

BIG PRICE FOR BONDS.—We are advised that the Town of Peterboro, Ont., recently issued and disposed of four small blocks of bonds, aggregating about \$29,000, at 3 per cent. interest.

Fire Insurance companies doing business in Cuba have to place \$75,000 on deposit with the American authorities. The Spaniards only required \$25,000, so there is lively kicking against the increase.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents

TORONTO LETTER.

The New Fire Chief for Toronto.—The New City Hall to Receive a Little More Finish.—Special General Meeting of Toronto Board Enlarges a Rule.—The Non-Intercourse Trend.—Changes in Toronto Agency of the Commercial Union.

Dear Editor.—The City Council have, after long delay, appointed as Fire Chief, in place of Chief Graham, the Deputy Chief Thompson. The appointment seems to give general satisfaction. After all the fuss and considerable trouble it is to be hoped that the present selection will be justified by future experience. I hope the City Officials returned to the unsuccessful candidates, from "distant points," the photographs and other specifications as to their individual build both moral and physical. It is certain photographs were sent in many cases, and in good faith, by sundry eligible men, and the least the City Council could do for these gentlemen is to pay for the insertion in THE CHRONICLE of their pictures, and their qualifications attached, as a help to situations elsewhere of a desirable kind. After a year's delay, a delay unsatisfactory to the Underwriters moreover, the unfinished top story of the New City Hall is receiving attention. I read that certain members of the Fire and Light Committee, with the new chief, have made a particular inspection of the attic, and that ready means of access thereto will now be provided. Naked wooden rafters will be covered with metal—fire escapes provided for the said attic, and stand pipes at the four corners connected, but chiefly a fire pump of 1,000 gallons a minute capacity will be erected. A recommendation to the council to have all these items attended to at once is to be made. No doubt this will all go through quickly, the season being opportune and the day of elections near. The new Chief is expected to bring in a report as to the efficiency of the Brigade and its proper re-organizations. The late fire by which the C. P. R. Elevator was totally destroyed in Toronto, if all reports be true, afforded an exhibition of weakness on the part of the Steam Fire Engine section of the Brigade, and an unreadiness very awkward under the circumstances.

The Special General Meeting of the Toronto Board called for the 27 ult. was duly held, and after discussion an amendment of one of the Board Rules was carried, enabling queries to be put to members straight, as to whether they had placed business with