

The London Assurance Corporation will apply to Parliament for additional powers, among others that of owning stock, should occasion arise, in any foreign insurance company. It is not anticipated that this power will be exercised, but is desired as a measure of precaution.

Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, had a destructive fire the other day, wiping out something like \$80,000 worth of property, of which about \$43,000 was insured. Now would be a good time for that Walkerton committee to interview the Yarmouth people on the economy of buying or not buying insurance protection.

It having been claimed by the American Surety company that it was exempted, as a guarantee company from the New York State tax of one-eighth of one per cent. levied by the comptroller on insurance companies, the matter has been passed upon by the Supreme Court, which decides that the company is liable.

Another mutual fire insurance company, the Union Mutual of Cincinnati, goes under, as the result of an examination by the Ohio insurance department. The attorney-general of the State inaugurates proceedings to wind up the company, which seems to have been crookedly managed and never legally organized.

An Illinois court has decided that unintentional neglect to pay an assessment due five days before his death, by the Rev. Dr. Adams, president of the Illinois Wesleyan University at Bloomington, did not forfeit his \$10,000 certificate in the Mutual Reserve Fund Life of New York, and the association will have to pay \$10,260 to his widow.

The closing hours of the old year witnessed two pretty good sized fires, at Montreal and at Halifax. That in Montreal was on buildings and stock corner of St. Paul and St. Gabriel streets, and resulted in a total loss of about \$60,000, involving insurance to the extent of about \$37,500. The Halifax fire is reported at about \$40,000, total loss.

The firm of Selby and Rolland, the provincial managers of the Manufacturers' Life and Accident, will hereafter be known as Selby, Roland & Lyman, Mr. Walter E. Lyman, formerly in the life department of the Citizens, now being associated with Messrs. Selby and Rolland. Mr. Lyman will no doubt find this connection an excellent one.

We noted, some weeks ago, the re-insurance by the Caledonian of the Eastern business of the Anglo-Nevada, including of course its Massachusetts business. The Caledonian has not yet been admitted to Massachusetts, and Insurance Commissioner Merrill, will try and collect a fine of \$500 from the Anglo-Nevada for reinsuring its Massachusetts risks in an unauthorized company.

Three of our exchanges come out this year with attractive Holiday numbers—the *Chronicle*, the *United States Review*, and the *Insurance Record*. The *Chronicle* number is in addition to its regular issue, and filled with original contributed articles from well known underwriters and insurance journalists, and has several pages filled with well executed cartoons. The *Record* also abounds in original illustrations, and has several "meaty" contributed articles; while the *Review*, following last year's model, has an embellished cover, many selected illustrations, considerable Christmas poetry and prose miscellany, and is strong in insurance literature.

We understand that the Citizens has re-insured in a licensed company one half of the entire liability of the Glasgow & London insurance company as at December 31st ult. This will preserve to the Citizens the full benefit of the G. & L. connection purchased by it, and will at the same time largely reduce its liability. A good move on the part of Manager Heaton.

A new building law is to be recommended by the city council of Boston for adoption by the Legislature, limiting the maximum height of buildings in that city to 120 feet, and providing that, within that limit, no building shall be higher than two and a-half times the width of the street on which it stands. Some stringent construction regulations are also embodied in the proposed law.

The Court of Review, in the case of Taylor *et al.* against the Northern Assurance Co., has just announced its decision, the conclusion of which is that the Court is ready to enter judgment for \$10,000 if the plaintiffs acquiesce; if not, a new statement of facts will be ordered and a new trial had. The verdict of the jury in the Superior Court, it will be recollected, was for \$14,000.

After so long a time, two of the wreckers of the American Life and the Bank of America at Philadelphia, viz.: Geo. F. Work and Louis E. Pfeiffer, have been arrested for transactions with fraudulent intent against the two institutions, and in default of \$20,000 bail each were sent to jail. John J. McFarlane, the notorious president of the American Life, is still at large with his whereabouts unknown.

The leverage of advanced rates to bring people to their senses was illustrated recently at Haywards, Cal., where the town council voted to compel every insurance agent to pay a license tax of \$35, as a means for making the insurance companies help pay the town's expenses. A prompt 25 per cent. advance in rates in that town persuaded the law-makers that they didn't want to tax the agents after all.

We notice that President Hyde of the Equitable Life has sent a circular to the presidents of all the life companies as a supplement to his proposition of Dec. 5, commented on elsewhere in our columns, suggesting an agreement between "the six or more presidents of the largest life companies" not to "steal" each others' agents. In the circular Mr. Hyde proposes a conference on the subject between *all* the companies, great and small.

The management of the Northwestern department of the Royal, with headquarters at Chicago, has been re-arranged. Mr. E. L. Allen, of the firm of C. H. Case & Co., heretofore the managers, retires from the firm, and becomes manager for the Northwest, while Messrs. C. H. Case and E. B. Case continue under the firm name of Case & Co., as agents for Chicago and Cook county. The latter firm and Mr. Allen both report directly to Liverpool.

A very commendable plan has been adopted by the teaching profession of Great Britain for the better information of its members on the subject of life assurance. An organization, known as the "Teachers' Guild," has asked the various life offices to furnish a brief statement of their several plans, including annuities, with schedule of premiums, age and financial condition of company, with other specified information, all of which the Guild will embody in a succinct form for distribution to teachers.