Presidency Nova Scotia Steel Co.—It is rumoured that Mr. R. E. Harris, K.C., of Halifax, is slated by the directors for the presidency of the Nova Scotia Steel Co.

* * * *

People's Bank of Halifax.—This bank has been sold to the Bank of Montreal. Its paid-up capital is $1,000,000, reserve fund, $440,000, deposits, $3,460,500, current loans, $4,998,042.

* * * *

Chairman Senate Banking Committee.—We congratulate Sir George A. Drummond on his being re-elected chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking and Commerce. One more qualified for this responsible position it would be difficult to find in Canada.

* * * *

The Bill to incorporate the Sovereign Fire Insurance Company of Canada was considered this week by the Senate Committee. It was suggested to add "Marine" to the title, but the committee struck out the clause relating to this class of business. The company is being organized with a capital of $250,000, of which $65,000 is to be paid up, the balance to be paid in three years. The shares are placed at $40 with 25 percent. premium, making them $50 each.

* * * *

New Fire Companies.—Several new fire insurance companies are seeking incorporation just now. Our Canadian fire offices, with a few exceptions, such as the Western, British America and one or two others, have not proved profitable. It is difficult to say whether this has arisen from defective administration, or insufficient capital to meet the unforeseen contingencies which inevitably occur, probably to a combination of these is attributable the unfortunate record of so many Canadian fire companies.

* * * *

Incorporation needs to be well considered.—In granting incorporation to new fire companies great care needs to be exercised both in the interest of shareholders and of the business and the reputation of the country. The remarks of Mr. Fitzgerald, Superintendent of Insurançe, as to large unpaid capital were very timely and apropos. When a company is not prospering it is exceedingly difficult to induce shareholders to pay calls on their stock.

If any more fire companies are to be incorporated a sufficiently large paid-up capital should be insisted upon.

* * * *

Molson's Bank Shares.—The Senate Committee recently considered the proposal to change the amount of Molson's Bank shares from $50 to $100, which is a move in the right direction.

A discussion took place as to the value of fractions of shares. The market regulates this, for fractions are traded in as are ordinary shares. The holders of fractions can either buy or sell in order to "even up" their holdings.

* * * *

The Equitable Life Assurance Society.—At a meeting of the directors of the Equitable Life held on 21st inst., the recommendation of the committee was unanimously adopted, "that the charter of the society be amended to provide that 28 of the 52 directors of the society shall be elected by the policy-holders and 24 by the stockholders, the division each year being in the ratio of seven to six."

A form of amended charter embodying this recommendation was also unanimously adopted.

A WELL-MANAGED LIFE COMPANY.

A report on the Northwestern Mutual was presented a few days ago to the Governor of Wisconsin, by the Insurance Commissioner of that State, Mr. Zeno M. Host, who has favoured us with a copy.

There are several features in this report of general interest which are worthy of attentive consideration.

The company has an excellent system of having its accounts audited. Four times a year independent accountants who have no connection with the company, who come from another city, visit the home office and verify the transactions of the company for the preceding quarter. In addition to which a committee of three trustees visits the home office yearly to ascertain the presence of all the assets which the company claims.

The Commissioner states that in regard to investments," the security is always the first consideration and the interest rate the second."

A highly commendable feature in the system of investing adopted by the company is there being "*not one cent invested in the stock of any corporation.* It is not interested in the success or failure of any subsidiary or auxiliary institutions." It has not a Bank Stock, not any of a Trust Company, nor of any industrial enterprise. It would be well for other insurance companies to adopt the same course, as the practice of investing in the stocks of industrial corporations necessarily involves the life company, which makes investments of this class in the affairs of any company whose stocks it holds, by which it incurs a risk which ought not to be incurred by those having trust funds to invest, and the funds of a life company are *trust funds* of a specially sacred nature.

The Commissioner remarks, "This is a company operated by the policy-holders, and for the best interests of the policy-holders," which latter condition ought to be applicable to every company, or society engaged in life assurance business.