

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON SMITH,  
Proprietor.

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Now that the beautiful fabrication concerning the enormous amount of life insurance carried by the late King of Italy has been permitted to circulate throughout the world, doubtless doing duty as a splendid advertisement of what royal personages think of insurance as a factor in modern civilization, the companies said to have been most favored by the Monarch are somewhat tardily denying that they had any insurance on his life.

One insurance journal even claims to have "reliable information" that the King could not obtain any large amount on his life.

The Cheerful Liar halts at nothing.

### Laws and Law-Makers.

Those to whom the people entrust the making of the laws in Merry England have no reason to feel very proud of their work in the case of the Workmen's Compensation Act. In a recent dispute submitted for arbitration to the Manchester County Court, the facts were admitted by both parties, but their solicitors desired direction as to the course to pursue. Then the fun commenced. The presiding judge said that they must wait "until the Appeal Court had decided what the Act meant." The phraseology of this wonderful bit of parliamentary work practically meant nothing, and each one concerned was at liberty to interpret it as he saw fit. To explain or to unfold the true intent or reasons of the makers of the Act was apparently too much to ask of His Honour. He might give his decision, but another judge would probably give one diametrically opposed thereto. It would seem that the Workmen's Compensation Act is as difficult to explain as any enigma. It recalls a passage in Genesis: —

*And Pharaoh told them his dreams; but there was none that could interpret them unto Pharaoh.*

### Our Superintendent of Insurance.

Mr. William Fitzgerald, Superintendent of Insurance, was, last week, made the object of an unwarrantable attack by one of our New York contemporaries usually most careful in its comments and criticism of things Canadian. We venture to assure the erring journal referred to that our Superintendent of Insurance is not "slothful," and no one who is acquainted with him would dream of charging him with "blindness." He is simply a cautious and upright official, whose attention to the duties of his department is cheerfully and promptly acknowledged by Canadians.

In dealing with the companies whose business he watches over, he may be relied upon to take action when the proper time arrives for governmental interference, but he cannot be bullied or abused into hasty or unjust treatment of even the weakest of the companies made subject to his supervision.

The irrational outbreak of lawlessness and disorder at Valleyfield is most regrettable. In addition to the interruption to the industry of a peaceful community, and the consequent loss in time and money, there is an aftermath of rancorous ire resultant from foolish and wicked appeals to racial feeling made by thoughtless individuals and newspapers.

But the young men of the Montreal Militia, who have been doing the work of the police for the past week at Valleyfield, deserve the thanks of that community for an admirable exhibition of patience. Trained troops, under much less provocation, have sometimes fired on their assailants. The metropolis has good reason to be proud of the promptitude with which the great majority of the officers and men of our volunteer defenders assemble at the call of duty