

Milwaukee Fire Insurance Company. Superintendent Louis F. Payn of the Insurance Department to-day has admitted the Milwaukee Fire Insurance Company, of Milwaukee, Wis., to transact the business of fire insurance in New York State. It has a capital of \$200,000.

The Wisconsin State Board of Control has placed \$1,000,000 of insurance on the properties in its charge. Heretofore the buildings have been uninsured. The policies cover the buildings and contents of the State Charitable, Penal and Reformatory institutions.

The Massachusetts Anti coinsurance Bill has passed the House without debate, and will now go to the senate. The Re-insurance bill, which among other provisions limits the writings of companies to 10 per cent. of these capitals and surplus, has passed the Senate.

Several Companies doing business in Michigan, will have to pay over \$100,000 back license fees into the State treasury. They have been mulcted for doing both a life and accident business for many years upon one license, and the Supreme Court has denied the motion for a new trial in each case.

Sues the Manchester. Silas P. Wood, ex-president of the American Fire of New York, brings suit for \$9,000 against the purchaser of the company, the Manchester. He alleges that when the control of the American was purchased last year that he was to receive an honorarium of \$6,000, and that \$9,000 additional was to be paid if on January 1, 1898, the Manchester did not desire his services or should he elect to leave the company.

Several New York Companies doing business in Massachusetts and elsewhere, who have been doing a little bombardment insurance "on the side," have been warned by the Superintendent to resist all temptation in that direction under penalty of having their licenses revoked. Business which it is illegal for a New York company to write in its home State it is also illegal for the same company to write elsewhere.

The Catholic Order of Foresters have appealed the case referred to in THE CHRONICLE of 20th ult. We are informed that the claim set up by the beneficiary took the attorneys for the C. O. O. F. by surprise, and no proper defense could be made until the necessary witnesses were obtained.

The members of this fraternal insurance society claim to be able to reverse the decision, recently given, by producing testimony not available at the first trial of the suit.

The Grand Rapids Mutual Life Insurance Company is in the peculiar position of being in process of dissolution for no other apparent reason than the death of the founder of the company, who had active charge of all its affairs, Mr. Van Dugteren. The Executive Board is composed of good business men, but none of them are experienced insurance men, and none of them have either the time or the inclination to devote themselves to the insurance business!

The company is perfectly solvent, and can pay dollar for dollar. It has about two hundred policies in force for \$1,000 each. It will retire from business without a receiver.

Among the "war measures" in embryo at Washington is a bill which it is hoped will provide for sailors and soldiers by a government system of insurance to be furnished by a department of insurance. The scheme is designed as a substitute for the pension system, but no details are yet available.

"Chairman Dingley of the Ways and Means Committee persists in misrepresenting the revenue-producing effect of the legislation bearing his name," says the *Philadelphia Ledger* (Rep.). "The war has come at an opportune time to enable him to hoodwink the people by alleging that extraordinary taxes must be collected solely because of the war. This is not true. If there had been neither war nor rumors of the war, the revenue would have been insufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the government, and this plain fact ought to be acknowledged by Mr. Dingley and by Congress so that the revenue laws may be intelligently amended to cover the deficiency."

The legal right of the Insurance Commissioner of Michigan to revoke the license of the Liverpool and London and Globe will be decided by the courts. The trouble has arisen out of a large line aggregating about \$500,000 written by the company on the Tamarack Mining Company in Northern Michigan, the excess of which has been re-insured in compliance with the laws of Michigan, which provides that no company must expose itself to an amount exceeding 10 per cent. of its capital on one risk. The deposit of the Liverpool and London and Globe in Michigan being \$530,000 they would be entitled to carry a line of \$53,000 subject to one fire. In the present instance, as their net line is less than \$20,000 some other reason for revoking the license seems necessary if the commissioner's course is to be sustained. Meanwhile a restraining order has been granted against the commissioner by the Supreme Court which will permit the company to continue in business until the case is settled.

Life Assurance Sinful. According to the *South Wales Daily News*, an evangelist, named Washburn, gave utterance to the following extraordinary harangue at the Lesser Park Hall, Cardiff, on Sunday week:—He declared that life assurance was a sin. It was simply a form of gambling. They always hoped to get out more than they put in. For himself he would prefer a visit to Monte Carlo or the purchase of a lottery ticket. The same thing applied to benefit clubs. The immense success of assurance corporations was in itself a condemnation of the system. These societies were prudential and friendly—very—to themselves! Insurance agents were no doubt honest, but they did not realise what they were doing. By life assurance murder was distinctly encouraged. He urged his congregation to trust in Providence, and, if they must save, to save for themselves. In reply to a question, Mr. Washburn, while supporting Bands of Hope, maintained that the Boy's Brigade was simply training lads to murder. The service concluded by the singing of the hymn "Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine."

This is a unique example of narrow-minded intolerance, begotten of ignorance, provincialism and blind fatuity. What have the fathers of the various Congregational insurance societies to say anent the outpourings and vapourings of this would-be leader of men?—*London Insurance Record*.