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The Surety Must Ascertain the Risk. In this week's Recent Legal Decisions we publish a synopsis of an important judgment of the English Court of Appeal, given last month, covering a question of guarantee insurance, and incidentally discussing the obligation resting on any person seeking insurance, of disclosing all matters which it is material for the Company to know.

Lost in the "Stella." Among those who perished in the "Stella" disaster was Mr. Maurice Black, the London Manager of the Real Property Investment Trust, and a director of the Life and Health Assurance Association, Limited. His wife, a Miss Caroline Forbes, of Chicago, was also lost. They leave two young children. In such a sad incident as this may be found good reason for the indignation which has followed the first outburst of sympathy, and it is to be hoped the steamship owners who permitted and encouraged the "Stella's" reckless racing through dense fog will be made to suffer in pocket and reputation.

Indignation Follows Sympathy. Immediately after the loss of the steamship "Stella" in the English Channel, on Good Friday, we expressed the hope that the scenes described by the survivors might influence another Plimsoll to plead with Parliament for intervention, if only as an answer to the despairing cries of the women and children who perished on that occasion. The story told by a survivor has been confirmed. The "Stella" was steaming at eighteen knots an hour through a dense fog, and it is stated that this speed was maintained because of the keen rivalry between the captains of two companies to get across the channel

ahead of each other. The opinion is freely expressed that such racing will have to be suppressed if further disasters are to be prevented.

Surely the sentences passed upon the captains of the "Castilian" and "Labrador," and the startling revelations made by passengers saved from the "Stella" will serve, at least for a season, to diminish the dangers of the deep, and lead to proper and seamanlike care taking the place of the reckless navigation inspired by rivalry.

Out of Evil Springs Good. Fear is contagious, and, since the terrible loss of life at the Windsor fire, the alarm created in the travelling world which maintains the huge hotels of New York and other large cities, is being illustrated by a perfect stampede of guests from hotels supposed to be similarly endangered. A passenger by one of the large Atlantic liners reports that upon his recent arrival at New York he sent a messenger from the pier to engage a room at the Holland House. Upon his arrival there, he found a list of 140 names whose owners were awaiting a chance to secure quarters. Upon enquiry, the new arrival found all the older wooden hotels were almost deserted.

The lamentable loss of life by the destruction of the Windsor Hotel may, it would seem, render life and property much safer than hitherto, if it only arouses hotel-keepers to the absolute necessity of constant watchfulness and the adoption of every modern protection against fire.

Pointed if not Polite. Our American neighbours have never been renowned for the politeness of their journalistic allusions to the public men of the United States, and in this respect they show no sign of improvement. In some comments upon the rumoured retirement of Secretary of War