

**Mud, Feathers
and Whiskey.**

"Without in any way casting a reflection on the Monaghan jurors, or without in any way judging the merits of the case," Mr. Justice Andrews and another Irish judge have granted an application from the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, for a change of venue in the case of the claims of one McCormack for £1,081. 18. 0. for whiskey alleged to have been destroyed on his premises in the town of Monaghan, Ireland, where he carried on the business of a grocer and publican. As the claim amounted to about one thousand pounds and involved the destruction of some 900 gallons of liquor, the defendant company naturally desired to "inspect" the claim. The report of the inspectors was, we regret to say, not satisfactory. The puncheons and casks had not exploded and were said to be merely charred on the outside, and one cask alleged to have held whiskey worth \$115, had no head on it and the inside had mud and feathers attached to it. Although the plaintiff stated that he was in the habit of storing large quantities of spirits on his premises; that on the occasion of the fire the bungs of the casks were blown out and the contents evaporated; and that the mud and feathers found in the whiskey cask by the North British inspectors came there by the falling in of the roof over it: the substantial defence still set up by the defendant company is fraud, and, believing the people of Monaghan might not be disposed to find against the plaintiff on such an issue as the possibility of his not having one thousand pounds worth of whiskey free from feathers and mud ready for their consumption, the defendant company have now had the place of trial of this interesting case changed from Monaghan to Dublin.

Even the North British, with its reputation for liberal dealing and prompt payment of just claims, may well be excused for their hesitancy in believing that McCormack's whiskey, to say nothing of some rum, gin, port wine and brandy, mixed drink representing 900 gallons of liquor, "evaporated." Sir Charles Cameron, who is described as a public official conducting some sanitary enquiry in the neighbourhood of the fire and whose affidavit caused much laughter, gave what seems to have been accepted as expert testimony regarding the condition of the casks. He declared it "absolutely impossible" for McCormack's whiskey to have evaporated. He probably knew the capacity of McCormack and his customers.

Fraudulent representation of losses sustained by fire are not so uncommon as to excite much attention. At the same time, it becomes a matter of the most serious nature if mud and feathers are found attached to the inside of the whiskey cask. It is not pleasant to think of a traveller visiting Monaghan seeking in a misguided moment to soothe his troubled stomach by "six of Irish hot," and being sickened with mud and feathers, and we hope to hear more of this very funny insurance story from Monaghan, Ireland.

**Sir Robert
Rawlinson.**

Lest insurance men forget the names of those whose good work in advocating fresh air, pure water, and proper ventilation as a means of prolonging life and incidentally improving upon the calculations of the clever actuaries who compiled the Hm. table, we reproduce the following reference to Sir Robert Rawlinson, the eminent scientist, whose recent death has evoked expressions of sorrow and regret all over the United Kingdom. The "Outlook" says:—

"To Sir Robert Rawlinson fell the good fortune of prolonging thousands of lives, and it is pleasant to think that, overcoming delicacy in youth—he was a working stonemason in Lancashire then—and escaping a cannonball which killed his horse in the Crimea, he lived to the patriarchal age of eighty-nine. He was all through his career a terror to the jerry-builder and the lax sanitary inspector; for up and down the country he preached the gospel of sound sanitation and pure water, and preached it in such a way that all must hear. The splendidly low English death rate of today is his best monument."

**Deeds not
Words.**

Some of the United States newspapers are not treating Colonel William J. Bryan with that respect which a silver-tongued orator and glory seeking patriot deserves. It seems that, at the recent opening of an exhibition in Omaha, the defeated Presidential candidate delivered an address of an extremely political complexion, wearing at the time his uniform as a colonel in the United States army. The Commercial Bulletin is unkind enough to say: "If Mr. Bryan is a politician, let him take off his uniform; if he is a soldier let him keep his mouth shut on the proper policy of the Government. And by all means let him get to the Philippines as soon as possible."

This is distinctly unkind, even to a political opponent. Mr. Bryan has admitted that his military appointment is one for which he has no qualification as yet; but he deserves respect for his pluck in volunteering to serve the country he once electrified with his eloquence. It is quite possible that the close of this campaign may find Colonel Bryan has done his duty as a soldier, and earned the right to adopt as his motto: "Deeds, not words."

**Gold and
Emeralds.**

Recent British exchanges refer to a reported discovery of gold and precious stones in the old world which completely effaces the allurements of the Klondyke. What may result from this latest find can only be guessed at after reading the full account of Lieutenant H. W. Seton Karr's discoveries as told to an interviewer for *Travel*. As those interested in Mr. Seton Karr's journeyings have obtained a concession from the Egyptian Government for the working and deve-