

material will always allow such abuses, and business competition will always prompt some contractors to take advantage of that fact; furthermore, such bad work can be so easily covered up that its detection is almost impossible except by inspection as it is put in place. Please do not misunderstand this as a condemnation of concrete construction. The art has progressed so rapidly during the last few years that, despite the possibilities of bad work, we are actually getting buildings which, in my opinion, are quite as much entitled to be called fireproof as the other type and are also as serviceable otherwise.

(To be continued.)

Insurance Briefs.

An unusual origin of fire at Winnipeg recently was a spark from a tinsmith's anvil flying into a large can of paint which stood some distance away.

The Prudential of America has recently promoted to assistantcies: P. L. Woodcock, Peterborough; N. A. Hammond, Toronto.

It is stated that Pacific coast underwriters are protesting against a proposal by school trustees at New Westminster to call for tenders for the insuring of the school buildings.

The National Fire of Hartford and the Springfield Fire and Marine were recently suspended by the Western Canada Fire Underwriters Association from all the privileges of the association.

A petition has been sent to the Dominion Government from Saskatoon asking for the early introduction of a Workmen's Compensation Act which shall apply adequately to the Dominion of Canada as a whole and shall cancel and be substituted for all Provincial acts.

Causes of death of 640 policyholders of the New York Life to whose beneficiaries over \$2,000,000 were paid during August are as follows:—Bright's disease, 80; consumption, 77; heart disease, 72; cancers and tumors, 47; apoplexy, 44; accidents, 37; pneumonia, 32; diseases of digestive organs, 29; disease of arteries, 20; liver disease, 19; blood poisoning, anemia, etc., 16; typhoid fever, 16; paralysis, 13; diabetes, 12; appendicitis, 10; bronchitis, pleurisy, etc., 6; spinal disease, 5; nervous prostration, congestion of brain, etc., 3; old age, 2; rheumatism, 2; all other causes, 98.

There is a disposition on the part of the New York liability companies to enter into competition with the Lloyds of London form of policy issued to protect banks against defalcation and loss of securities. They admit the Lloyds have carried off several millions of this class of insurance through broader forms, and that the bankers who had previously insured these risks in American companies do not object to the rates, but certainly prefer the form which gives them a larger protection than those used by the local offices.

Now the latter are waking up and show an inclination to follow the game to a finish.—The Spectator, N.Y.

Perez E. Huff, who represents the Union Central Life of Cincinnati in New York City has reported in the last ten years business of over ten millions—an average of over one million dollars a year. In 1911 his paid business reached two million dollars, while within the first nine months of this year he has already exceeded \$2,000,000. Mr. Huff is said to devote the greater part of his time to the active management of a prominent fire insurance firm.

Some interesting particulars of what appears on this side, a very remarkable investment by a Dutch insurance company are given by a special correspondent with the International Congress of Actuaries at Amsterdam. This is the work done by the Life Insurance Company "Utrecht" in reclaiming waste lands. That company has invested an immense sum of money in bringing heath lands under cultivation, and for years has had no return to speak of. Now the place has reached a point when it yields about one per cent. on the amount invested, and a sale of the entire property could now be effected at an excellent profit to the company, while promise is given of a five per cent. interest yield at an early date.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES APPROACHING THE LIMIT.

The limitation of new business imposed by Section 96 of the New York Insurance Law has heretofore had but slight effect upon the companies operating in that State. An amendment to the law, passed two years ago, made the limitation more elastic by permitting the companies to increase their production in proportion to the economies effected in management. Under that amendment both the Metropolitan and the New York Life were enabled last year to write over \$150,000,000 each, the former reporting \$160,872,373 of paid-for new business and the latter \$178,344,400, these figures being exclusive of revivals, additions and changes. The production of new business this year is on so large a scale that other companies are likely to reach the limit. The Equitable of New York reports the prospects bright for writing \$150,000,000, while the Northwestern Mutual expects to report \$140,000,000. The Mutual of New York is also writing a large volume, but by a resolution of the board of trustees has voluntarily limited its writings in any one year to \$150,000,000. For 1913, therefore, it seems that both the Equitable and the Northwestern Mutual will be able to go beyond the set amount, provided they show a saving in expenses. The latter company claims that for 1911 its saving was 11.27 per cent., so that if it maintains the same ratio in 1912 and writes \$140,000,000 of new business, next year it will be able to write about \$155,000,000 and in 1914 about \$172,000,000. The New York Life can write nearly two hundred millions this year, and with its economical methods of management can again increase that sum in 1913. It will be seen, therefore, that the volume of business written by these large companies can increase annually, subject to possibly slight fluctuations in the expense account, and that no trouble may be expected through exceeding the limit.—The Spectator, N.Y.