

MR. JOSEPH HENDERSON, assistant general manager Bank of Toronto, passed through Montreal yesterday, on his way home from New York.

MR. GEORGE HAGUE, who was recently taken sick, when on a visit to Springfield, Mass., U.S., arrived home yesterday morning, much improved in health.

Notes and Items.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

OTHER VICTIMS OF THE BALTIMORE AND ROCHESTER FIRES are the Atlas Mutual, of Boston, and Millers' and Manufacturers' of Minneapolis.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 31st March, 1904—Clearings, \$1,559,463; corresponding week last year, \$2,058,360.

THE NEXT CONVENTION of the International Association of Accident Underwriters, will be held at the Hotel Lafayette, Portland, Maine, on July 19, 20 and 21, 1904.

LONDON STREET RAILWAY EARNINGS.—Week ending April 2, 1904, \$2,974.11; corresponding week, 1903, \$2,596.93. Increase, \$377.18, or 14.5 per cent.

HARTFORD FIRE COMMISSIONERS have recommended the city council to establish pumping machinery to draw water from the river, by which means a better supply and higher pressure could be obtained.

THE PROVIDENT SAVINGS LIFE COMPANY'S Head Office for Canada, in the Bank of British North America building, Toronto, to which they have recently removed, is very commodious and up to date.

THE RAILWAY PASSENGERS ASSURANCE COMPANY'S Head Office is now located in the Bank of British North America building, Toronto, having been removed from 20 Wellington East.

COST OF SICKNESS.—The Fidelity and Casualty "Bulletin" points out how enormous is now the cost of an attack of illness. In a serious case, say, of typhoid fever, the expenses are, stated by the Fidelity and Casualty "Bulletin," to run up to \$92 per week! Sickness of this type must be a luxury of the wealthy.

THE LOSS RATIO IN ST. LOUIS, last year, was 44.7 per cent., but Mr. Waterworth, of St. Louis Insurance Surveys, has published the city's returns for ten years, which work out an average loss ratio of 62 per cent. If to that percentage be added the expense ratio, the result will show the business to have yielded no profits in the last ten years.

THE EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY CORPORATION is the oldest company doing business of this kind, and it certainly has been most successful, because it would not do business at unremunerative rates, says "The Review." The company has large reserves, and paid a 15 per cent. dividend. Mr. Stanley Brown, the manager, has had a good deal of experience in other offices besides the Employers' Liability, and is also a Cambridge University man, on which ground our London contemporary says that he ought to be called on to give evidence before the Committee considering the Workmen's Compensation Act.

THE OCEAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION, has issued another new policy, which is named, "Advanced Triple Accident Policy." This is a straight accident policy, not including the health indemnity, but including a list of stipulated indemnities for special injuries, and also retaining the clauses in regard to the payment of hospital expenses, registration and identification, investment, indemnity for surgical treatment and operation, etc., as in the corporation's health and accident policy. The contract is much more condensed and easier to comprehend than most of those heretofore issued by this company.—"Surveyor."

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS' BANK circular issued a few days ago from the general manager's office of the Eastern Townships Bank, announces the following changes among the staff in addition to those recently announced:—Mr. A. G. Campbell, late manager of the Danville branch, is transferred to Bedford as manager, succeeding Mr. W. H. Hargrave, to Bedford as manager, succeeding Mr. W. H. Hargrave, now assistant manager at Montreal; Mr. W. N. Stone, of the Granby branch, succeeds Mr. Campbell at Danville as manager; Mr. R. P. Buzzell, manager of the Sutton branch, who, it was announced, had been transferred to Bedford, remains in his present position.

THE COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, of Pennsylvania, Vermont, Ohio, North Carolina and Florida, show the following items of life business for 1903, as quoted by "The Weekly Underwriter":—

	Policies issued.	Premiums received.	Policies in force.
	\$	\$	\$
Pennsylvania	258,231,676	45,113,625	1,261,837,234
Vermont	5,429,883	1,499,145	41,111,908
Ohio	140,317,655	22,191,555	626,660,954
N. Carolina	25,243,462	3,159,317	
Florida	8,682,640	1,355,245	

Large increases are shown by each of the above States, except Vermont.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

TORONTO LETTER.

A Theory re Origin of Baltimore Fire—The Baltimore Estimate of Loss—The Iroquois Theatre Fire Recalled—Annual Meeting of Toronto Board—Toronto Board New Agency Rules—Annual Meeting Items.

DEAR EDITOR.—There is a plausible theory afloat as to the origin of the recent great conflagration in Baltimore, and it is to the effect that one or more "dead eyes" in the sidewalk were broken, immediately over the vaults they supplied light to. These vaults, under the sidewalk, were used for the storage of cotton goods and blankets in cases, the covers of which had been removed. The fire started in the premises of Hurst & Co., and it is surmised that a lighted cigar stub, or a match, might have fallen through some such small opening, as a fracture in the "dead eye" would afford. Fire thus falling on the goods beneath, would smoulder until discovered, as later it was, spread through the whole premises. It will be remembered that on the Saturday night previous, a very high wind prevailed, so that sufficient air pressure might easily have been