

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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**Railways and city streets.** The Railway Act, as amended in Committee of the Whole, having been published by the Government reliance may be placed on what forms part of the Act as issued. In regard to Highway Crossings there was strong opposition raised to the proposal to give railways rights over the roads in towns and cities, regardless of the local authorities. In consequence of protests made by municipal delegations, the clause relating to this matter was altered to read as follows:—

“The Railway Board shall not grant leave to any company to carry any street railway or tramway, or any railway operated or to be operated as a street railway or tramway, along any highway within the limits of any city or incorporated town until the company has first obtained consent therefor by a by-law of the municipal authority of such city or incorporated town; but no obstruction of such highway with the works shall be made without turning the highway so as to leave an open and good passage for carriages, etc.”

This clause prevents any roadway in a city or town being seized by a railway, made a portion of the line of such railway, as was first proposed.

**A New Profession Working Up Accident Cases.** A Mexican paper just to hand reports an accident case tried recently at San Antonio.

On cross examination a man named McRea was asked about his occupation for some years back. After testifying that he had engaged in horse trading and farming up to five years ago, he was asked what his next occupation was.

“Boosting cases,” was the reply.

“What do you mean by boosting cases?”

“Well, it’s this way. Whenever you hear of an accident you get on the spot as quick as you can and get the injured man to sign up a contract with your lawyer to defend him and then you also work up evidence. Another thing is that whenever in

conversation you hear any man express himself as friendly to corporations you take his name and report it to the lawyer you are working for, and the name will be scratched if it ever goes on a jury list. I was paid according to the time I was around the court house watching the boosters of the lawyers of the various plaintiffs to see that they had no connection with jurors.” From statement in the Mexican paper the railways in that country must have a remarkable number of accident claims, so the profession of Mr. McRea is probably quite lucrative.

### Outside Solicitors.

Attention is invited to a letter from an “Insurance Agent” which appears in our correspondence column. We confess to feeling sympathy with the writer whose grievance is felt by a large number of agents, more especially in smaller cities and towns where under the most favourable circumstances the business is not a bonanza. We should be glad to hear from correspondents in regard to this matter, with practical suggestions as to the best method of protecting regularly authorized agents.

### A Weak Spot in Public Schools.

The Hamilton “Spectator” recently selected a bright looking youth of 17 years of age, who had been through the Collegiate Institute, to test his fitness for a position. He claimed to have “a fundamental system of bookkeeping,” whatever that is. His spelling was tested by giving him twenty-five ordinary words—by no means the catch words and puzzlers of the language, but twenty-five ordinary, everyday, newspaper words. The bright boy of the Collegiate Institute wrote the words as they were given to him, and we have the record. Of the twenty-five words he spelled just five correctly!

Our contemporary remarks: “Now this is a fair sample of the boys who have the advantage of what is boasted about as being the greatest system of educa-