Vol. XIII. No. 17.

Insurance and Finance Chronicle.

OFFICE: 1724 Notre Dame Street. MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 1, 1893 SUBSCRIPTION: $2.00 per ANNUM

THE

Insurance and Finance Chronicle.

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month.

AT 1724 NOTRE DAME ST., MONTREAL.

R. WILSON SMITH, Editor and Proprietor.

Annual Subscription (in Advance) - - - $2.00

Prices for Advertisements on application

All Communications intended for THE CHRONICLE must be in hand not later than the 10th and 25th of the month to secure insertion.

Enforcement of the Sixty Day Clause.

IT SEEMS to us that the movement of the fire insurance companies to enforce the sixty-day clause, with reference to payment of loss under their policies, is entirely justifiable under present circumstances. The enforced delay in the payment of premiums, consequent on the scarcity of money in the States, works great hardship to the companies, and it is obvious that if "spot cash" is to be paid for losses, the result will be the burning of the candle at both ends. Companies can prudently pay current losses only from current receipts, and cannot be blamed for enforcing the letter of the contract which gives a reasonable time for adjustment and payment. Lightning adjustments and a scramble to see who shall be first to pay a loss have been altogether too common in the past. An honest loss will bear investigation at any time, and a dishonest one certainly requires it, so that, as a rule, even were money plenty, companies for their own protection would be justified in requiring a reasonable time for adjustment and payment.

A Fraudulent Claim Contested.

THE CONTEST of a claim, recently, under a policy for £300 by the London and Lancashire Life, was, as the event proved, a very proper thing to do. The trial at the Bristol Assizes before Mr. Justice Day developed the fact that the grossest mis-representation had been made in the application of the assured, one William Broad, a stable hand employed by Mr. Thos. Arthur James at Bristol, and who in a few days after the issue of the policy assigned it to James. This was in April 29th last, and on May 18th Broad died. Among other things the applicant stated that he was 39 years old, was born in Sydney, Australia, that he had no other insurance on his life, that his mother and father were living, and that none of his family had died of consumption or hereditary disease. Evidence at the trial showed that Broad had a policy in the Prudential, assigned also to Mr. James, that he was born at Rotham in Kent, that his mother died in 1872 of consumption, that he had been a soldier in the Egyptian army, and that his father had been dead several years. The fact was established to the satisfaction of the jury that James procured the insurance on speculation, dictating the untrue statements in the application, and a verdict for the defendant company was the result. Claim-resistance in such a case is in every way commendable.

Savings Banks Versus Life Insurance.

WE HAVE on several occasions called attention in these columns to the superiority of investment in a life insurance policy over deposits in savings banks, and have demonstrated by figures this superiority. The experiences incidental to the present financial disturbance, so extensive over the border, serve to emphasize the superiority named. Some savings banks have failed outright, and the depositors have lost a considerable portion of their savings, while all of these institutions have been obliged to enforce the sixty days' notice regulation as to the drawing out of deposits in order to prevent an unpleasant "run" on them. Thus, when the pinch comes and the money is needed most, it is unavailable. An endowment policy falling due in any of the leading companies would be paid forthwith, and a policy of almost any kind, not yet matured, could, with a good many companies, be used as good collateral on which to borrow the greater part of its reserve value. In case of the death of the assured, payment to the needy family only waits upon necessary proofs of death. Thus, aside from the absolute *safety* of the insurance investment, in a good company, its immediate availability renders it far more desirable than the savings bank deposit.

Relton's Book On Early Fire Annihilators.

WE NOTICE that our New York contemporary, *The Chronicle*, in speaking of the invention of "Fire Annihilators," quotes Cornelius Walford's statement, that Mr. Charles Povey, the founder of the Sun Fire Office, invented a novel machine in 1706, the first of the kind, and of which no description has been left to posterity. It seems that Mr. Walford was very much mistaken as to his dates and facts. The new