

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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**A Correction.** We have been requested by Mr. George Hague to correct a mis-statement in the press to the effect that he had resigned his position in the Merchants' Bank of Canada. This is not correct. He has been relieved of a large amount of the responsibility of administration, but still retains his title and supervisory position until the completion of his term of engagement, which will be in June, 1902.

**Of Interest to Bankers and Clients.** In our reports of legal decisions, elsewhere in this issue, will be found one of much interest to bankers who have been in the habit of permitting a customer to sign cheques by means of a rubber stamp bearing a facsimile of his signature. The reasoning of the editors of the American Law Review, in their challenging of the decision of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, is most clear and cogent. However, the decision of the judges will serve a good purpose, if it leads to an absolute refusal on the part of bankers to accept cheques unless manually signed by the depositor or his attorney.

The judgment of the United States Circuit Court, regarding "intentional injuries" and an accident policy, will interest insurance men and accident policy-holders.

**Montreal School Taxes.** It would be a deplorable outcome of the present petitioning by the Protestant and Catholic School Boards, if some indiscreet action of the Government should lessen the educational facilities of Roman Catholics or Protestants in city or province. As both parties claim they require more money for the purpose of education, surely it would be better for the joint meeting suggested to abandon all idea of up-

setting the existing system of dividing the taxes paid by corporations, and to unite in requesting that such aid as may be found necessary be granted by the Government to Protestants and Catholics alike. Such a step would, we venture to think, be regarded favorably by the community at large.

It is most desirable to remove the question as far as possible from the political arena.

**Another Insurance Mystery.** The United States have furnished the world with some strange stories of crime in connection with insurance; but novelists of the realistic school will find in some recent events in the old world material enough to harrow up the feelings of the most intense lover of sensation. Even in Canada, we have been made familiar with "strange disappearances," followed by efforts to collect insurance on the missing men. But it is reserved for Paris, as usual, to furnish the insurance companies with a case to chat about and ponder upon with the purpose of finding some solution of a shocking occurrence. It seems that one Henri Martin, a writer of scientific articles on suicide, was found in his room

*"Staring full ghastly, like a strangled man."*

As a matter of fact, Henri was hanging from a cord, dead. His heirs are claiming insurance amounting to some \$6,000, and they plead that the journalist's death was accidental, he having strangled himself when experimenting in the interests of science. If Henri Martin was merely trying to secure the sum of the sensations of death by hanging, in order to faithfully portray his feelings, it seems a pity he was so thorough in preparing for the dangerous experiment. The story is a remarkable one, and in the interests of the insurance companies is to be told in court.