RETIREMENT OF MR. SPENCER THOMSON FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF THE STANDARD LIFE.

At the last annual meeting of the Standard Life Assurance Company, in Edinburgh, it was announced that Mr. Spencer Thomson had retired from the management owing to his desire for rest. Mr. Thomson became manager of the Standard in 1874, he has therefore borne the cares and the responsibilities of that office for thirty years, in which period he has rendered distinguished services to this eminent company.

In alluding to this matter the chairman said: "The names of "Standard" and "Thomson" have been linked together in the traditions of the life-assurance world for a longer period than any of us can personally recollect." Mr. Thomson's father was, practically, the founder of the Standard. He was appointed secretary in 1835, was afterwards manager, from which position he retired in favour of his son.

Mr. Spencer C. Thomson was born in 1842, in 1864 he graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, and at once joined the actuarial department of the Colonial, which was absorbed by the Standard. He rose rapidly to be assistant-actuary, joint actuary, assistant manager, and finally manager and actuary. Mr. Thomson in an address to the Actuarial Society of Edinburgh, said: "The daily routine of a life assurance office is "not" based on a network of mathematical theorems, involving an increasing series of calculations made by aid of the differential calculus, but proceeds on a foundation of common sense, illuminated by the result of the study of actuarial principles as a direcing light."

Under Mr. Thomson's management the assurances in force of the Standard have risen from $88,896,000 to $138,246,610, and the funds from $24,105,000 to $55,071,585.

Mr. Spencer C. Thomson has richly earned a period of rest, which, we hope he will have health to enjoy for all the years he may desire.

FIRE AT LEDOUX'S CARRIAGE FACTORY, MONTREAL.

By the fire which occurred at the above factory on the 20th instant, the following companies are interested:—

	Building.	Contents.
Ætna	$3,000	....
Sun	4,000	....
Home	4,000	....
British America	4,000	....
London Mutual	2,500	....
Scottish Union and National	1,000	....
	$18,500	....
Royal	....	4,500
Montreal Mutual	....	5,000
Richmond & Drummond & Yamaska	....	2,000
	$18,500	$11,500

The loss to Messrs. Ledoux & Co., on building and stock is estimated at from $80,000 to $90,000.

The estimated loss to owners of carriages stored and left for repairs is about $20,000.

QUERIES COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information, we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest, in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1194. F. H. B., Quebec.—The Canadian Pacific Railway Company paid a dividend of 2 1-2 per cent. in 1897—in 1900 it was put on a 5 per cent. basis and the stock now pays 6 per cent. per annum. The highest point touched by the stock was 145 1-4 on September 3, 1902. The lowest in recent years was 84 3-4 on 26th September, 1900.

1195. H. B. J., Montreal.—We believe the last dividend paid on Con. Lake Superior preferred stock was 1 3-4 per cent. paid in September, 1902.

1198. A. M. D., Renfrew.—The new issue of $880,000 common stock of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company brings their issued capital up to $7,000,000, of which $2,000,000 is preferred, and $5,000,000 common stock. The bonds of the company are now selling in the neighbourhood of 109.

1197. S. T. D., London.—The Omaha Water Company is the successor of the American Water Works Company. The authorized issue of the consolidated 5 per cent. bonds of 1946, is $6,000,000. Of late there has been quite an active demand for these bonds. The nominal quotation is about 82 1-2.

1199. J. B. C., Toronto.—It is stated that the finances of the United States Rubber Company are in a much better condition than they have been before, and higher prices are confidently predicted for both the common and preferred. It is said that the dividend of 1 1-2 per cent. recently declared will be a quarterly one, which would put this stock on a 6 per cent. basis.

1201. J. M. P., Hamilton.—The minority holders of Rutland Railroad Stock are getting together and several meetings have been held, and plans are being perfected for the protection of their interests. It is believed that they can materially strengthen their position by acting in concert.

PROTECTION OF THEATRE AUDIENCES is to be provided by a Bill before the Legislature of Massachusetts, which provides that one fireman shall be on the stage at each performance, that all scenery and wood work shall be fireproofed, all stage gas jets protected by wire netting, that only safety matches shall be kept in the building, that standpipes shall be placed on the stage and the water turned on during every performance.