

A LOT IN NEW YORK CITY, corner 3rd Avenue and 149th Street, has been sold at \$5 per square inch. The lot, however, contains only forty square inches! It carries a privilege of using a strip 5 feet wide. The buyer intends to use his rights to build a stairway to an underground vault wherefrom he expects to get a large rental, says "American Investments."

A WEALTHY AMERICAN WOMAN is on trial charged with murdering her husband. The symptoms led to suspicion as to the death of her son, whose body, on being exhumed, was found to contain arsenic and powdered glass. His life insurance money, \$30,000, was paid to the mother, now accused of murder, and it looks very likely that she will be asked to refund the money, as no doubt exists that the young man was poisoned.

CHICAGO MUST BE A DEPRESSING CITY. There were fifty cases of suicide therein during May last. Suicide is increasing in the States, as might be expected where such violent changes are constantly occurring in the circumstances and prospects of men and such disappointments of efforts to rush up to a state of wealth at a bound.

PROTECTION OF BUILDINGS IN COURSE OF ERECTION is much neglected in this city. A few nights ago we saw some boys trying to build a fire in the floor of a dwelling that is only up to the second storey. Had the stacks of flooring, joists, uprights, trestles, etc., taken fire, as they were in danger of doing, there was every likelihood of very serious losses being incurred by the adjacent buildings being injured.

THE SENTENCES FOR 18 MONTHS AND 15 MONTHS given respectively to two men convicted at Reading, Pa., of conspiracy to rob insurance companies out of \$63,000 by an incendiary fire were a mockery of justice. Petty larceny is punished by similar sentences. The law pendulum is now swinging to the extreme of leniency after going to the limit of severity. But, stern as it sounds, a man who sets a factory on fire is far more worthy of the death penalty than of such trivial punishment as a few months in jail.

THE N. Y. JOURNAL OF COMMERCE prints the following dispatch from Chicago concerning the National Life Insurance Company of the United States. The new financial interests in the National Life, U.S.A., securing the stock of President O. D. Wetherell, the transfer being consummated, will be represented by A. M. Johnson, who takes the treasurership. Edward A. Shedd, who purchased a majority of the stock, will not be actively identified with the company. Manager R. E. Sackett said to-day that it was the plan to extend the company's scope in all possible directions. Deputy Brinkerhoff, of the Illinois Department, is just closing his examination of the company. President Wetherell has resigned.

AN ACTUARIAL AGRICULTURIST.—Mr. William McCabe, F.I.A., managing director of the North American Life, is well known as a fruit cultivator in Florida. He is stated to have recently sold 119 head of cattle fed on his Ontario farm, on which he fattens them chiefly to have a supply of fertilizing material for his orchards. The business man is wise who has a hobby of this kind to provide him with healthful diversion and surcease from the worries of city life. The human brain needs fertilizing as well as land, and one of the best materials for that purpose is, entire change of occupation.

PLEASANT NEWS FOR BEER DRINKERS is the following statement in "The Insurance Observer": "Before the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the presence of arsenic in beer, Mr. Otto Heber, of the Society of Chemical Industries, declared that if the law were to insist upon beer being absolutely free from arsenic they would have to close up all the breweries in England. No beer could possibly be guaranteed as absolutely free from arsenic, but with careful use of ingredients what arsenic there was in beer would be quite harmless." Lovers of a glass of beer may console themselves by the reflection that there is not a single known edible or beverage which does not contain some poisonous ingredient. It is well, as Hamlet says, not to enquire too curiously into these things.

CHLOROFORM OR APPENDICITIS?—The Court of Civil Appeals, Texas, recently reversed the decision of a lower Court in a case turning upon the point whether the death of one Glass was caused by appendicitis or chloroform. Very strong affirmations were made by one physician that the man died from the anaesthetic and by another that death was caused by appendicitis. The evidence was, however, conclusive that the operation was exceptionally dangerous, as the patient was in a perilous state as gangrene had set in. The Accident Co. will not have to pay the claim as its policy did not cover the risk of death from disease. The King's fate would have been certain death had the same morbid conditions existed in the part affected. In case of the above disease a prompt operation is essential to recovery.

THE EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY'S school for students of life assurance was opened in the library of the head office on 1st inst. There were 102 college graduates in attendance. The instruction is orally given by the departmental heads, general agents and other officials of the company. No text books are used, but the students are expected to study the policy forms and literature of the Equitable. The library at the Head Office contains 8,000 volumes all relating to insurance, including the unique collection of the late Cornelius Waiford. The living expenses of students are paid during the school term. The object is to induce a highly educated class of men to take up life assurance as their settled occupation, for which the school is intended to train them.

A WOMAN COMPLAINS OF ACCIDENT COMPANIES treating those of her sex unfairly. She wrote to the St. Louis "Post Dispatch" as follows:—"You have done so much good why don't you try to make the accident insurance companies treat a woman as well as they do a man. I am a woman, the head and only support of a family. When I travel I take an accident policy, and why should I pay the same premium as a man and not have the same benefit as he does? Because I am a woman I have to die to get anything, and if I should get hurt nothing would be paid me by the week; and a man without a family, paying the same premium, would have so much a week." The writer, Mrs. Eddy, should appeal to some company directly, state her circumstances and she will find the management ready to accept any good business proposition.

MESSRS. FETHERSTONHAUGH & Co., patent solicitors, Canada Life building, furnish us with the following weekly list of patents granted to Canadians in the following countries. Any further information may be readily obtained from them direct. *Canadian Patents*:—D. Fraser, feed mechanisms; T. F. Melanson, car couplers; F. A. Snider, cultivator couplers; G. Wedlake, castor wheels for plows; J. Morphy, plows; J. Morphy, tilling colters for plows; H. Thompson, bathing machines; H. Thompson, car seals; W. H. Russell, clips or supports for trolley-wires; C. W. Vollman, freezing apparatus; J. Colas, draining wells; P. H. Loundes, galoshes; Maude C. Howie, toasters; J. Lemire, milk aerators; G. A. Fraser, shoe polishing holders. *American Patents*:—A. W. Cameron, apparatus for forging car wheels; T. Partridge, Jr., stove grate; J. M. Smith, printing frame; J. W. Smith, car coupling; L. J. A. Staniewicz, bookbinder's clamp; Charles Whetham, portable tripod.

THE NORTH GERMAN AND LLOYDS has built a new pier at Hoboken. After the disastrous fire of a couple of years ago, it was determined not to erect another wooden dock. The pier, as constructed and described in the Philadelphia "Intelligencer," consists of a bulkhead or sea wall 900 feet in length, built of granite. This supports the outer wall of the terminal building. The building is constructed of steel columns incased in concrete and brick, floors of concrete, supported by solid brick arches set in I beams. From this terminal three piers, 90 feet in width and nearly nine hundred feet long, extend into the river. These piers rest upon piles, protected against fire by concrete floor and fire-proof planking from the water up, to prevent fire getting in beneath. The piers are double-deckers, with continuous wire-glass skylights. Each pier is divided into three compartments by fire walls, while the terminal structure has six compartments. There is the terminal sprinkler system, multiphase cable automatic alarm and an independent system of fire mains and hydrants. What about the fire protection in Montreal Harbour, is it all it should be?