The City Council and McGill. That any member of the City Council would be deaf to such a remonstrance as that lodged by the governors of magnificently endowed McGill University is too absurd to contemplate, and it seems certain that every possible effort will be put forth to prevent the pumping station proving a nuisance and an injury to the McGill staff and the instruments obtained at such great expense. But in the fact that the contract for the steam-boiler had been signed, and the work commenced *before* the necessity for serious consideration of a complaint from McGill arose, may be found another illustration of the wisdom of giving the greatest publicity to civic affairs, and the necessity for our citizens, even college professors, evincing some interest in public works.

Government Deposits are for Canadian Policy-Holders. However unjust such a decision may appear to be to the general creditors of a defunct life assurance company, the legal decision recently given in Toronto virtually establishes the right of Canadian policy-holders to a preferential claim upon the company's deposits in Canada. When the Massachusetts' Benefit Life Association lodged a special deposit with the Ottawa Government for the privilege of transacting business in the Dominion of Canada, it must surely have been understood by all parties concerned that said deposit was required for the protection of Canadian policy-holders, and that no claim from creditors residing outside of the Dominion would receive recognition until Canadians were settled with. Whatever may be the final decision of the law courts, there can be no question as to what was intended by the law requiring these deposits to be made.

Fire Prevention. On the 31st ultimo, in London, G. B., a station was opened for the purpose of obtaining reliable data as to the exact fire-resistance of the various materials, systems of construction, or appliances used in building practice. Such data have not as yet been available, owing to the fact that nearly all investigations of this description have been carried out by individual makers, or inventors with specific commercial objects in view. The few independent tests made in the United States have so far only been of minor importance.

The series now to be undertaken by the British Fire Prevention Committee will not only fulfil a long-felt want for the professional man, but be the first of their kind. The "fire-proofiing" trades, too, will at last be able to obtain authenticated records which will hall-mark their work.

The British Fire Prevention Committee, under whose auspices these tests are conducted, was founded after the Cripplegate Fire of November, 1897, and will now shortly see its full incorporation. It counts a membership of some five hundred architects, surveyors, engineers, municipal officers and others directly or indirectly interested in Fire Prevention, among whom are practically all the leading members of the professions named. The library includes a file of some fifty technical journals from all parts of the world, and the regulations and building acts, etc., of all countries. Regular publications are issued by the Committee (twelve already having appeared), and meetings are frequently held. The founder was Mr. Edwin O. Sachs, the architect, who has been loyally assisted in the preliminary arrangements by the Executive over which he presides.

The tests will be of an entirely independent character, arranged on scientific lines, but with full consideration for the practical purpose in view. Absolute reliability will be assured, records being mostly taken automatically, or by photography, and the temperatures being easily regulated by the application of gas.

All reports on tests will solely state the bare facts and occurrences, with tables, diagrams and illustrations, and on no account will reports include expressions of opinion, or any expressions that might be read as comparisons or criticism.

The general arrangement and direction of the tests will be in the hands of the Executive, and in accordance with certain principles laid down after careful study and experiment.

The actual tests will be attended by the members of the Council and the members of the Committee in rotation, care being taken that the attendance is always thoroughly representative of the technical professions primarily interested in the specific object under investigation.

As to the Testing Station, it comprises two houses standing in their own grounds near Regent's Park, and backing on to the Regent's Canal, London.

The principal building will be used for Committee Rooms and laboratory purposes, whilst the gardens are utilised for the principal so-called "full-size" tests. These are generally carried on in brick chambers specially erected for the purpose. The fuel primarily takes the form of gas, and the principal recording instruments are electrical pyrometers with photographic records, the ordinary protograph camera and the smelting globule.

As to the financial aspect of the station, the establishment expenses have been met by a special subscription which will also cover the expense of conducting tests of general technical interest. Tests with patented materials, makers' systems, etc., etc., are, however, subject to a scale of charges, but these charges are so figured as to only just cover the actual cost. The services of the members conducting or attending tests are given gratuitously.

From Dawson City. From the letter of a Montreal friend and valued correspondent, we gather some interesting particulars of his journey to and impressions of Dawson City. He commends as "the shortest and best way to Dawson,"