It is admitted by casualty underwriters themselves that the commissions paid by some companies are excessive. The payment of such commissions in any branch of the insurance business is injurious to all concerned. It attracts into the business parasites, to the detriment of *bona fide* agents, encourages rebating, to the detriment of the policyholder who pays his premium in full, and makes the cost of insurance unduly high.—Boston *Standard*.

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A committee of the Insurance Commissioners presented a report at their convention dealing with the question of liability loss reserves. The committee found that the present loss reserves are too small and recommend that a flat basis of sixty or sixty-five per cent. be provided for new business, the old to be worked out on the present schedule of experience. Further time will be asked for and a definite programme for loss reserves is to be submitted at the December meeting.

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A Chicago paper says:

Louis Orleans, a clothing merchant of 1065 Milwaukee avenue, was one of several hundred taxpayers who "kicked" against assessments before the Board of Review yesterday. Orleans is on the books for $900, one-third of which is the penalty for his failure to file a schedule.

"Why, my stock isn't worth $50," he protested to Reviewer Webb.

"How much insurance have you?"

"One thousand dollars."

"And what rent do you pay?"

"Seventy dollars a month."

"And your stock is worth only $50?"

"That's all."

"Well, I'll just fix you up," said the reviewer.

Orleans went away smiling. Had he glanced at the notation made by Mr. Webb his smile probably would have faded.

"Assessment confirmed," it read.

FINANCIAL GOSSIP

Saskatoon has sold $1,100,000 5 p.c. bonds at 88.

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The Home Bank has declared a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum for the quarter ended August 31, payable September 1.

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The municipality of Burnaby, which adjoins Vancouver, has sold in London $1,500,000 6 p.c. treasury notes at par. They are repayable in ten years.

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New Bank Branches.—*Montreal,* at St. Catharine's, Ont., Mr. B. L. Smith, acting manager; *Commerce,* Oshawa, Ont., Mr. H. H. Hyland, manager.

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According to some observers, the congestion of floating gilt-edged stock in the London market is now being removed, and that there is good enquiry for 4 p.c. trustee investments.

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The big London joint stock banks are said to have been making heavy increases in their stocks of gold recently. If this be the case it will be an important supplement to the stock kept by the Bank of England.

It is stated in London that City of Montreal bills which matured on August 12, have apparently been renewed for six months on a 5½ p.c. basis. The bills were originally taken some six months ago at a rate of approximately 4½ per cent.

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C.P.R.'s net surplus for the year ended June 30, was $18,310,257 against $17,560,518 for the previous year, an increase of $749,739. Gross earnings were $139,395,699 against $123,319,541; working expenses $93,149,825 against $80,021,298, leaving net earnings of $46,245,874 against $43,298,242.

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The Canadian Northern Railway's issue in London of £1,500,000 5 per cent. five-year notes at 98 has been oversubscribed, the lists being closed in advance of the fixed time. The notes were sold on a basis to yield about 5½ and including underwriters' commission the cost of the money to the Company works out at about 5¾ per cent.

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The organisation meeting of the trustees of the new Central Gold Reserve will, it is stated from Ottawa, be held in Montreal at the end of the month. The Government has selected the Royal Trust Company as its trustee, the other trustees being the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Royal Bank.

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The output of the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company for the month of July was as follows:—Coal mined, 69,600 tons; pig iron, 7,100 tons; steel ingots, 7,500 tons; ore mined, 53,600 tons. The ore shipments for the month were the largest in the history of the company, amounting to 115,000 tons.

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The report of the Montreal Tramways Company for the year ended June 30, shows gross earnings of $6,754,227, and operating expenses of $4,032,664, leaving net earnings of $2,721,563. After payment of interest, dividends, taxes, etc., there is a surplus of $481,949. The transfer to general surplus after $200,000 was put aside for contingent account and other allocations made is $194,565. Expenses were 59.71 of earnings and 159,892,021 passengers were carried.

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The cause of recent heavy liquidation in Crown Reserve became known on Monday, when announcement was made of the discontinuance of the bonus of 3 p.c. which has been paid with the dividend of 2 per cent. since January, 1911. The reason given for the discontinuance of the bonus is the decrease in earnings consequent upon the sudden change in the large Carson Vein from rich high-grade ore to lean, calcite ore. Apparently a leak lead to the heavy selling prior to the announcement. It is stated that none of the directors sold any of their shares.

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The *Statist's* compilation of new capital issues in London, for July, indicates offerings of £21,892,000. This compares with £29,846,000 in July of last year. For the seven months ended with July the total offerings have been £173,062,000, against £150,829,600 in 1912 and £130,825,000 in 1911. The principal destinations of July's issues were: United Kingdom, £5,646,000; India, £64,0000; the colonies, £6,648,000, and foreign, £9,534,000. For the seven months the principal destinations of the new capital issues were: United Kingdom, £31,227,000; India, £3,502,000; the colonies, £62,954,000, and foreign, £75,377,000.