

Lloyd's (England)	2,000
Anglo-American	2,000
Waterloo	2,000
Connecticut	1,000
	\$73,000

On Building.

Scottish Union & National, N. A. . \$5,000

Total \$78,000

Loss estimated 30 per cent. to 40 per cent.

PERSONALS.

MR. DAVID CRAIG, having resigned as general manager of the New Zealand Fire Insurance Company, has been succeeded by Mr. James Buitte.

MR. D. R. JACK, representing the North British and Mercantile, at St. John, N.B., has been in Montreal for past few days.

MR. WALTER JONES, cashier at the head office for Canada, of the Pelican and British Empire Mutual Life office, sails to-day, "en route" to London, Eng., to recuperate after a severe attack of typhoid fever, having been granted two months' leave of absence.

MR. G. F. C. SMITH's many friends will be glad to learn that he is completely recovered from his recent illness.

MR. E. C. RYAN, agent at Winnipeg, for the Liverpool & London & Globe, was in Montreal during the past week, visiting the head office for Canada. Mr. Ryan is rapidly building up a large business for his Company in this important field.

MR. A. G. DENT, assistant secretary of the Liverpool & London & Globe, Liverpool, Eng., is at present visiting the branches of his Company in the United States, and is expected in Montreal to-morrow. He has just returned from a trip to Australia.

Notes and Items.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE STATE LIFE, of Indianapolis, is about to enter Canada, with its head office for the Dominion, at Toronto.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending Feb. 25, 1904: Clearings, \$1,818,400; corresponding week last year, \$1,770,706.

ACCORDING TO THE ADVANCE REPORT of the Insurance Commissioner for the State of Rhode Island, the Foreign Fire Companies doing business in that State, received \$360,845 in premiums, and paid \$129,991 for losses. Risks written and renewed amounted to \$39,766,084.

COMPARISONS made between the fire loss in Italian cities and those on this continent are misleading. Here we need furnaces and stoves to be running five months yearly, night and day, in Italy the provision of such heating apparatus is quite rare, and what artificial heat is provided is too moderate to be dangerous.

STATE OF WISCONSIN.—From the preliminary report of the Commissioner of Insurance, State of Wisconsin, it appears that the Foreign Fire Companies doing business in that State, secured \$1,745,475 in premiums, paid \$354,935 for cancellations and reinsurance, and \$944,428 for losses. The risks written amounted to \$100,711,972.

"THE BALTIMORE FIRE shows that rates must be greater than to cover ordinary losses and current expenses, but must be sufficient to meet these extraordinary contingencies. These contingencies must be expected and provided for. Neither can local rates be predicted on local experience. The business of fire insurance has a broader scope. Besides, the locality which has had no serious fire for decades may suffer it to-morrow."—President Cunningham.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

NEW YORK INSURANCE LETTER.

New York, March 2, 1904.

Nearly the sole subject of discussion and comment among fire insurance men for the past two weeks, has, of course, been the Baltimore fire, together with speculation as to its influence upon separate companies, and the business as a whole. I observe that THE CHRONICLE has already given full details of the conflagration, with appropriate comment, and space need not be taken here for that purpose. The work of adjusting the losses began almost immediately after the smoke had cleared away, and is now going rapidly forward, some companies paying over in cash the money for from six to twelve claims per day. It is noteworthy that in almost every instance, these claims are being paid without a moments' delay after proof has been satisfactorily made, and without a cent of reservation or discount. The English companies have certainly kept up their reputation for promptness and reliability, and have been among the first to settle. Much favourable comment has been occasioned by the plucky determination of the home offices, to send, by cable, if necessary, the funds to meet these special losses, in order that securities might not need to be sacrificed, or any of the branch office investments disturbed.

Our portion of the aftermath of the fire is regretted, and that is the enforced retirement of a number of old and honourable institutions, which, after years of patient labour and service, find themselves impaired and are compelled to surrender. Noteworthy among these are the Greenwich and the Hamilton, the former being much the more important. It was thought at first that the stockholders of the Greenwich, who are nearly all wealthy men, would favour making up the impairment and continuing this good old company in business. In fact, this may be done later on, using the old charter. At any rate, President Stone, who has so faithfully served the Company for many years, will have no difficulty in making profitable connection somewhere. The Greenwich has been reinsured by the Commercial Union.

It is generally agreed here that the recent disaster, together with others of less importance, which have occurred since January 1, should prove the opportunity of the companies for impressing upon the public through their agents, so far as possible, the fact that the increase in rates made some time ago was entirely justifiable, and that even further increases may be necessary. As a matter of fact, it is almost certain that rates should be advanced on mercantile risks, such as stocks of goods in business centres, and also upon manufacturing hazards.

At a recent meeting of the agents of the Equitable Life, in this city, Vice-President Tarbell made the important announcement that hereafter his company will accept no policies which have been issued in the place of policies of other companies, and he also announced that a note had been addressed to each of the other important life companies, requesting them to co-operate with the Equitable in this effort to prevent the evil of policy twisting. This is a step in the right direction, and it is hoped that there will be cheerful acquiescence in the request of this great Company.

The Rochester fire, with its insurance loss of \$1,000,000, is another black eye to the fire companies; and coming so swiftly on the heels of the big Baltimore disaster, it may