Insurance Items

THE DETROIT CONFERENCE OF CASUALTY COMPANIES will hold its sessions on March 27, 28 and 29. The three important papers below mentioned will be read and discussed:

"Inspection of Risks and Collections," by L. O. Chatfield, Phœnix Preferred Accident Insurance Company; "Methods of Procuring Agents and Authority Delegated to them," by Charles P. Wofford, National Life & Accident Insurance Company; "Can Local Conditions be Improved by Organization?" by Simon Whitestone, Pittsburg Sick & Accident Union.

A STARTLING CONDITION at Los Angeles, Cal., was reported to the officials of the city by Francis H. Porter, of San Francisco, chief inspector for the Fire Underwriters' Association: "In ten hours' time your city might be wiped out by fire. The conflagration hazard in Los Angeles is an enormous danger. Everything is ready for a big fire." The committee present, by numerous vote, decided to call a special election at once to vote on a bond issue of $400,000, to be used in carrying out plans for fire protection described by Inspector Porter as absolutely necessary.

AN ASSEMBLAGE OF ACTUARIES and high officials is on at Madison, Wis., attending the hearing of the Joint Committee on Insurance on the numerous insurance bills, which have followed the report of the Wisconsin Insurance Investigation Committee. There are sixty Senate bills alone and the calendar has been arranged so that all relating to similar subjects are scheduled for hearing at the same time. It is expected that the hearings will consume several weeks.

THE TORONTO WATERWORKS' engineer, Mr. Fellowes, expects to have that city's high pressure system for fire protection completed by next October. Several months before that, however, portions of it will be ready, and these will be used as soon as the pipes are laid. Practically all is done now but the laying of the pipes. The engines are built, the two pumps are nearly ready, the boilers are in, the building is finished and 99 p.c. of the material is on the ground.

DEATH ON THE SCAFFOLD has again been declared by a Federal Court to forfeit life insurance in the United States. The case decided upon was that in which the estate of J. Samuel McCue, of Charlottesville, Va., brought suit against the Northwestern Life Insurance Company for the recovery of $15,000 on a policy on the life of McCue, who was hanged for the murder of his wife. The other companies involved had settled without resisting payment.

THE CONFEDERATION LIFE COMPANY'S directors have instructed the company's architect to proceed at once with the erection of an eight-story fireproof office building, to cost over $200,000, on the site of the old Knights of Pythias Hall, on the corner of Queen and Victoria streets, Toronto. The new structure will be connected with the present Confederation Life building, and will be in harmony with it.

THIS COINSURANCE STORY is given by *The Insurance Press:*

It is difficult sometimes for the insured to understand what a coinsurance clause means, especially difficult after a loss has occurred and the operation of the clause has made the owner a contributor. An amusing incident is related in Buffalo. A policy bore the One Hundred Per Cent. Average Clause. When it was delivered the insured noticed the clause and asked the broker what it meant. "It means," replied the broker, "that the company issuing this policy is a 'dollar-for-dollar' company and will pay 100 cents on the dollar in the settlement of any claim against it." Naturally the insured was disappointed when, having suffered a small loss, he was called upon to contribute a substantial proportion of the amount.

THE CONNECTICUT SENATE has passed resolutions increasing the capital stock of the Travelers' Insurance Company from $1,000,000 to $10,000,000 and increasing the capitalization of the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company from $1,000,000 to $3,000,000. In the case of the Travelers' resolution provision is made that the new stock shall be sold for cash and at a price not below the par value of the shares. The shares must first be offered to the stockholders. The Senate has also passed a measure changing the name of the Scottish Union Insurance Company to the Scottish Insurance Company and extending for two years the period within which the company may perfect organization.

A NEW TELEGRAPHIC CODE for fire companies is being introduced in Great Britain by Mr. Baird Murray and Mr. Villiesid, of the North British Company, and several of the British fire offices have already decided to adopt it. The code consists of three parts: (1) Special phrases in great variety; (2) a vocabulary, supplementing the phrases, and enabling important messages to be sent verbatim at a large reduction in cost; (3) tables dealing with numbers premiums, etc.

THE EMINENT AUSTRALIAN ACTUARY, Mr. Richard Teece, F.I.A., who returned from an extended tour at the close of the year, seems to have surprised his fellow countrymen, according to The Review of Sydney, by telling the newspapers that a "heat wave" was experienced during his stay in Montreal last summer.

FIRE COMMISSIONER LANTRY has addressed to Mayor McClellan an appeal for adequate protection against fire in the City of New York. Directing attention to a problem requiring quick solution he has applied for a bond issue of $3,709,500 for the purchase of sites and erection of apparatus houses and for necessary additions and alterations.

FIRE LOSSES for January and February of this year, as compiled by the New York Journal of Commerce, total about $44,000,000 for the United States and Canada. This is about $8,000,000 more than the corresponding showing of last year.

A TEST CASE against the Yorkshire Fire Insurance Company, which disclaims responsibility for losses resulting from the Kingston earthquake, was filed in the Jamaica courts this week.