

PERSONALS.

MR. A. DEAN, Inspector of The London Assurance Corporation of London, England, has been spending a few days in Montreal.

MR. J. H. EWART, of Toronto, representing the National Assurance Company of Ireland, visited Montreal on business during the present week.

MR. F. D. TAYLOR, Manager of the Deseronto branch of the Bank of Montreal, has been appointed Assistant Inspector of the bank, and will, of course, remove from Deseronto to Montreal.

MR. CAMERON, a member of the firm of Messrs. Faulkner & Co., General Fire Insurance Agents, at Halifax, N.S., has been visiting Montreal during the week on business. Mr. Cameron's firm have been appointed General Agents for Nova Scotia of the old Manchester Fire Assurance Company, of Manchester, Eng.

MR. ALEXANDER STEPHEN, the energetic Mayor of Halifax, has been passing a few days in Montreal on his homeward journey from an official visit to Ottawa and a business trip to Boston. During his brief stay in the metropolis, Mayor Stephen was welcomed at the Board of Trade and also pleasantly received by the Mayor of Montreal.

MR. J. C. NORSWORTHY, Inspector of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Company, has just returned from an extended trip through the province of Manitoba, and expresses astonishment at "the evidences of prosperity to be seen everywhere." When in Winnipeg, Mr. Norsworthy received instructions from his Head Office to "*proceed to New Westminster, adjust losses, and pay immediately.*" and the company has since received a numerously signed letter expressing the appreciation of policy-holders for prompt settlement of their losses.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents

TORONTO LETTER.

The Movement towards Establishing a Salvage Corps in Toronto.—Alderman Sheppard's Work.—Late Special General Meeting of the C. F. U. A. in Toronto.—Eaton Case, and some deductions from the late trial under Chief Justice Meredith.

Dear Editor:—I think the Toronto underwriting fraternity are pleased to find that, instead of pressing on the public that airy, impracticable scheme called Municipal Fire Insurance, some of our Aldermen are looking for laurels in a more rational and better way, in connection with the fire insurance interests of the rate-payers. Mr. Alderman Sheppard, a gentleman of considerable energy and push, for several weeks past has been at some pains to get such facts and figures as will help him to realize his desire to have a first-class Salvage Corps established in this City. The advantage, profit and value of such an addition to our fire brigade is admitted on all sides, both by the insured and the insurer, but the question of who should foot the bill therefor is a great factor in the case. If I mistake not, the feeling of the Insurance Companies is against their undertaking to support a Salvage Corps. They look upon such institutions as

necessary parts of a well-ordered municipal fire appliance system, and that all the expense therefore should be defrayed by the Municipality. Moreover, they hold that they do allow and recognize such improvements where introduced, in their ordinary and special ratings for risks in cities and towns. In this way they allege that citizens get fully reimbursed for the extra civic expenditure. In furthering his plan, Mr. Sheppard has been at the trouble of communicating with the civic officials of all the principal cities in the United States and in the replies received, has accumulated much interesting information, and useful data, bearing on the initial and working cost of Salvage Corps. He also has been told what contributions, where any made, have come from the Insurance Companies in each place. Mr. Sheppard has asked for a conference with the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters at an early date, desiring to lay before them his suggestions, and, at the same time, to ascertain the views of the Underwriters. I believe there is no reason why such a conference should not take place. Many thousands of dollars worth of property might be saved to owners and the insurance companies by the introduction of a salvage corp to Toronto. Losses are bound to occur from time to time. I shall be able, I hope, to again refer to this matter. Meanwhile, Mr. Alderman Sheppard deserves the thanks of the citizens for his forceful action on their behalf, out of which I expect good will come.

Last week a special general meeting of the C. F. U. A. was held in Toronto. It was a very full meeting too. Matters of great gravity and importance to the Association were submitted and discussed. The subject was one affecting the Manitoba business, and the action of certain Companies in relation thereto. Happily, all differences were amicably and satisfactorily adjusted before the meeting adjourned. There was, however, a sharp crisis at the time. Owing to the strong competition, diverse interests and the differing conditions of business in the several sections of the wide Dominion over which the C. F. U. A. has jurisdiction, it is perhaps impossible to have things so ordered as to preclude some difficulty or dispute some occasional tension occurring. We all know that even as "the quarrels of lovers are but the renewing of love," so these jolts and jars, and difficult situations, and the straining on the leash of a few warm-blooded eager members of the Association, generally end (as just now) in a firmer tie and the stronger welding together of the many large interests of real importance and moment to the members as a whole.

That the Eaton case, as represented by the Bank of Toronto vs. the Keystone Company, should have again been decided adversely to the Insurance Companies was not altogether unexpected. Until the case comes before a higher, even the highest court in Canada, if it may go there, there is but small hope of a different verdict. It seems to me there is a point growing out of this case of great moment to Insurance Companies generally, and which they are interested in having made clear, i. e., the materiality of the pledging of a policy, without notice and without consent of the Company. If the Courts say this may be legally done, and some have so affirmed already, then the Companies will have to devise some measure of self-protection to meet the changed situation. A policyholder should not have it in his power to assign his policy to another party, as in the present case,