of this branch of law; (3). "The Interest Act and Amendments". "Bills of Exchange, Cheques and Promissory Notes," by John W. Blair, Advocate; "The Bank Act, and Amending Acts." by A. W. Buchanan, L.L.B.; "Insurance Law of Canada," by Chas. M Holt, K.C. (the book says Q.C., which is obsolete). After these follow the Winding-up Act, the Adulteration Act, Synopsis of Laws of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island, Manitoba, N. W. Territories, Quebec Civil Law, a copy of the Canadian Tariff of Customs, and a list of the lawyers, notaries, bailiffs, and banks in Canada. Altogether Lovell's Compendium is a highly valuable publication.

THE BANKER'S MAGAZINE, New York, March, 1903.—In this issue the money reserves held by the U. S. banks and the Treasury are affirmed to be "larger than those held by the financial institutions of any other country of equal commercial rank in the world," and these great reserves are declared to be "a necessity with an inelastic currency." They are also said to be "a great and constant expense," and they would not be necessary under a more liberal, financial system, or if kept, could be rendered available by being made the basis of an elastic currency." This is the position, as far as it goes, which has been taken and illustrated by THE CHRONICLE. The other contents of this Magazine are up to the very high standard it has set for some time.

THE "SPECTATOR'S" QUINQUENNIAL NUMBER, 1868-1903. The "Spectator" has issued a supplement "to commemorate 35 years of continuous publication," which is a beautiful specimen of typography. It contains a number of articles on insurance topics, contributed by eminent experts and writers, on economics. We note that Mr. David Burke's paper, "Canada as a field for life insurance," read before the local Insurance Institute, is here republished, and a paper also by Mr. William McCabe, Toronto, on "The Life Insurance situation in Canada." The "Spectator's" Supplement is the best of its kind that has fallen under our notice. Our esteemed contemporary has our congratulations and best wishes for a second quinquennial term.

PERSONALS.

A SPECIAL CAR CONTAINING NINETEEN OFFICIALS of the Canadian Bank of Commerce passed through Montreal on Sunday night, en route to inspect the seventeen branches of the Halifax Banking Company, the business of which will be merged with the Canadian Bank of Commerce on the 31st inst.

MR ALBERT J. RALSTON has been appointed manager of the business of the above Company, for the Province of Ontario, succeeding Mr. Robert Young, who has resigned his position of Superintendent of Agencies, to return to Winnipeg, where he will resume his real estate business, much to the regret of all connected with the Company.

Mr. Ralston has been connected with the great West almost from its inception, and his successful management of the business in the Maritime Provinces is a guarantee of his ability.

THE STATISTICS OF CANCER have been investigated by an eminent French physician, who pays small respect to the statistics compiled some years ago. The belief that cancer is increasing seems to rest upon the more carefully compiled medical data now published. This applies to other matters, as it is well known that in past years statistical information of all classes was very carelessly compiled.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

THE LONDON MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO. has removed its offices from London to 82 King St., Toronto.

PACIFIC COAST FIRES, from 1st Dec. last to March 1, were $1,000,000 in excess of average.

FRENCH LIFE COMPANIES IN 1902 had assurance to amount of $358,762,903 francs, or about 71¼ millions of dollars.

MR. L. A. WILSON, of Syracuse, has been appointed U. S. manager of the North American Life, Toronto, with head quarters at Syracuse.

MUNICIPAL INSURANCE has been declared unconstitutional by the laws of Massachusetts. It has been declared imprudent by these economic laws which are universal.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS of Atlanta, Jacksonville, and other cities in U. S. report that sparks from chimnies and defective flues are chief causes of fires.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 23rd April, 1903; clearings, $1,823,455. Balances, corresponding week last year, $1,583,487.

EUROPEAN PROPHETS are predicting that 1904 will see the beginning of a time of depression on this continent. These gentry *know* as much as the next man, they only make guesses which is an easy business.

THE SUN LIFE OF CANADA has appointed Mr. J. H. S. Bowes, for 8 years with the Mutual Life, New York, as district manager for Yorkshire. English life companies need to wake up or Canadian companes will get all, or the bulk of the business.

BANK AMALGAMATION, NEW YORK.—The National Broadway, the Mercantile and Seventh National Banks, New York, amalgamated under the title, The Mercantile National Bank. The joint capital is $3,000,000, and surplus and undivided profits, $5,000,000—a strong position.

THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE has passed another anti-trust bill, which is said to be much broader and sweeping than all its predecessors. This includes labour unions, we are glad to know. For if any combinations are hurtful to the general welfare, it is these labour unions. And moreover this will take the new law into the courts, where, if sustained, labour unions will be regulated instead of regulating.—"Baltimore Underwriter."

DOCTORS ON STRIKE.—Here the grave-diggers have struck work, in Berlin, Germany, the doctors have done so, at least those who are employed by sick fund societies will strike on July 1. They complain of the insufficiency of their fees, which under the Invalids' Insurance Law are only 20 pfennings, about four cents for each visit. The doctors at Gera and Mulhausen have already successfully struck, and the managers of the sick funds in those places are compelled to pay the ordinary fees of independent physicians. The National Physicians' League, which supported the strike at these towns, will engineer the general strike. A physician who accepts four cents for a visit is either practicing for charity, or his services are worth no more.