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R. WILSON-SMITH,

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A Risky Business. Captures of vessels laden with coal on their road to ports of the two powers now at war are continually taking place in spite of the imminent risk of confiscation. Last year, as the direct and indirect results of the war the shipments of coal from Bristol Channel ports were nearly treble those in 1902 and more than double those in 1903. Some of these cargoes shipped to ports where coal is contraband realized \$30 per ton, the ordinary price being \$3.50 per ton. The difference represents the margin required to provide for risk of capture.

Manitoba Municipalities. A Convention was held at Brandon on 14th inst., which was attended by 75 delegates representing municipalities in the Province of Manitoba. Mr. Fleming, mayor of Brandon, who presided, in opening the meeting explained the object for which they had met and the following resolution was unanimously passed, moved by G. R. Coldwell, K.C., and seconded by M. Livingston:

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is desirable to form a union of Manitoba municipalities and that a committee be appointed to draft a basis of organization for the carrying out of such purpose; that the chairman be requested to name a committee of five to prepare such draft."

The resolution was carried unanimously, and the chairman selected the following committee: "Ald. Coldwell, Brandon; Reeve Stinson, Wallace; Reeve Polson, Rockwood; Reeve Cochrane, Oak River, and Ald. Campbell, Winnipeg.

The objects of the organization were stated to be "The perpetuation of the organization as an agency for the co-operation of Manitoba municipalities in all questions pertaining to municipal administration. In particular the guidance and improvement of legislation, both Dominion and provincial, upon municipal questions; the betterment

of municipal government, and the production of municipal interests generally. The securing of united action for the protection of individual municipalities and municipal interests as a whole, against legislative or other encroachments of corporations.

Interesting Accident Case.

In a case recently decided by the Court of Appeal, London, England, the appellant, a widow, sought to enforce payment of a claim under an accident policy for \$5,000 issued to her late husband. The company objected on the ground that the assured had given untruthful answers to the question of the medical examiner, "Have you ever met with an accident?" To this he answered, "No." when it was proved that he had met with an accident by which his thumb was injured and a second one which caused an effusion of water at the knee joint, for each of which injuries he had received \$45 from an accident company. The appellant counsel argued that these were too trifling to come within the term "accident" within the meaning of a life insurance policy. The Court of Appeal dismissed the case with costs because of the above incorrect answers having been given. The decision is hard on the widow, but the entire blame rests upon the man who sought to conceal the facts.

When Does An Insurance Contract Commence?

A question is now before the Court of Appeal, Ontario, that arose from the appeal of the State Life Insurance Company against returning \$350 to Mr. Gordon Henderson which he had paid ostensibly as the first premium on a policy for \$10,000 which he solved to decline. The case as reported in brief reads:

"Chief Justice Meredith thought the payment of the \$350 merely an offer, not an acceptance, and so not an agreement. There was therefore the right of plaintiff to withdraw his application for insurance.