

Notes and Items.

"La Mutuelle Generale Canadienne" gives notice that it will apply next Session for an Act of Incorporation, to carry on the business of accident insurance.

President Scott, of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society, is reported to be making things lively all along the line of its connections by calling down expenses, enlarging its operations, and giving new energy to the whole staff.

The Ocean Accident & Guarantee Company's taking over the Mercantile Credit Guarantee Co. of New York. Mr. W. D. Dean, President of the National Surety Company, will be Joint Manager of the Ocean Accident & Guarantee Company.

Is a Bicycle an article of household furniture? *Rough Notes* tells of a claim under a policy covering furniture for the loss of a bicycle by fire. The adjuster refused to admit the claim. Bicycle owners should note this, and have their wheels specifically insured as such.

The Table of Life Assurance business published in our last issue is re-published in this number as an asterisk was omitted when it first appeared by a mechanical accident.

Diamond Jubilee insurance is being written to cover the risk of disappointment to those who expect to let windows at high prices. One house on the route of the procession has been let for \$10,000 for the day!

The Ohio Supreme Court has decided that the Connecticut Fire and Western of Toronto must pay their policies on 200 barrels of whiskey burned at Milton, Ky., and owned by Kennedy & Bro. The policies were written the day after the fire, although those placing the insurance did not know of the loss at the time. A sub-agency contract is said to have caused the confusion.

The Fire at Ridgetown last August by which Messrs. Cawthrop & Sons' flour mill was burnt, is likely to be investigated in Court. There were circumstances which caused the underwriters to suspect incendiarism which led to delay in paying the claims made arising from the fire. The Queen's, British America, and Lancashire are now being sued for the amounts of their policies. They are reported to have evidence to justify withholding payment, part of which is a statement by a man who declares he was hired to fire the mill.

Insurance in Prince Edward Island - The gross income of the seventeen fire insurance companies transacting business in Prince Edward Island, for the year 1896, amounted to \$59,392. The local taxes levied are rather onerous. The Local Government tax is \$100 a year for each fire insurance company, and \$150 for each life insurance company; while the City of Charlottetown, not to be behindhand, levies a tax of \$50 a year on fire, life, and marine insurance companies. In order to offset the Local Government tax, the companies increased their rates by 5 per cent., which about covers the tax.

By a new Act passed by the New York State Assembly, at Albany, no insurance Company will hereafter be allowed to invest any of its funds in the securities of a company transacting the same class of business.

A Mr M. W. Johnson, a citizen of Kentucky, is likely to be a famous character in insurance annals. He was a poor farmer; then a manufacturers' agent; then a life assurance agent, in which latter position he had extraordinary success of an ephemeral nature for his premiums seem to have been promises, not cash. He had taken out policies amounting to \$102,000 on his own life, and concluded to avoid paying premiums by ending it. He died suddenly, and strychnine was found in his stomach. His widow, however, claims that he died from a fall from his horse, but it has yet to be explained how a shock of that kind could cause strychnine to be found in his interior.

The Legislature of Manitoba is being urged to adopt a provincial government system of hail insurance. The idea of the promoters is to levy a tax on land sufficient to provide recompense to farmers whose crops have been damaged by hail storms. *The Commercial* points out how unfairly such a general tax would work, as it would compel the farmers to whom the system would be of little or no service to pay for the protection of those to whom it would be very helpful. "No matter how the question is viewed, a little reasoning will show that the proposed general tax system is entirely wrong. If a government system is thought necessary, let it be based on business principles, each one paying in proportion to the protection received—in proportion to the amount of property at risk."

The United States Branch of the Scottish Union & National has for many years commemorated the fact of Sir Walter Scott, Bart., having been its first president, by issuing each year a chromo of some scene associated with that illustrious author. This year it has published a photogravure of a painting by Mr. Hardie, A.R.S.A., which depicts the meeting of Walter Scott with Burns, at the house of Professor Ferguson, the future Wizard of the North, being then a youth of 15 years, where a distinguished company of literary men were present. We have received a copy of this very interesting picture, from Mr. Martin Bennett, United States Manager of the Scottish Union & National, who has our best thanks for this courteous present, and our sincere wishes for his speedy convalescence.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of February, as compiled by the New York *Journal of Commerce*, shows a total of \$8,676,750. The loss for January and February compares with the figures for the same months of 1895 and 1896 as follows:—

	1895.	1896.	1897.
January.....	\$11,805,600	\$11,040,000	\$12,040,000
February.....	12,360,200	9,730,100	8,676,700
Totals.....	\$24,255,800	\$20,770,100	\$20,756,000