

mayors, chiefs of fire departments, boards of fire underwriters, commercial bodies and special agents, differing to suit the conditions in each case. All are told that the only way to reduce the cost of insurance is to reduce the annual fire waste, and that this can best be done by improving the present methods of construction.

Last week's big fire in Winnipeg was a serious one, the low temperature made it hard to fight; 17 of the firemen were frostbitten. The fire engines worked well; 7,000 feet of hose were used and 14 streams were playing. The water in the reservoir was lowered 3 feet by the needs of the occasion, but a pressure of from 50 to 60 pounds was maintained. The building was worth \$36,000, insured for \$24,000 in the Sun, Union & Crown, Quebec, Royal, Western and Home. J. D. King & Company's loss was \$5,000; Paterson & Sons Co., \$7,000; Copeland & Chatterton, \$2,000, covered in Hartford; Rattray & Cameron, insured in Anglo-American, London Mutual, Equity, Montreal-Canada, and Canadian. The total damage is perhaps \$200,000 to \$300,000.

WIRE NUISANCE.

Mr. R. P. Slater, mayor of Niagara Falls, Ont., writes the *Monetary Times* as follows:—"I see your paper proposes to pay considerable attention to insurance matters, and among other things to notice the Montreal Fire Department complain of the hindrance of the Fire Department by multiplication of electric light, telephone, telegraph and power wires in that city.

"For a considerable time I have thought it would be well if the Provincial Legislatures would pass an act enabling town and cities to own and control the poles or conduit lines, which are within the boundaries of the municipalities, charging low-rate rates to each company using the same. One pole or conduit line would accommodate the telegraph and telephone lines and another the power and electric light lines. With fairly good management the municipality should be enabled to maintain the lines. This could be done without charging the companies even as much as it now costs the individual companies to keep their lines in order. Your readers' views on this matter would be interesting."

ANGLO AMERICAN FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

While a larger gross premium of the company's income is shown this year than last, rebates and re-insurance make the net somewhat less. Interest receipts are much larger. A gratifying decrease in losses is noted and the balance to profit and loss account is encouraging. Capital stock has been reduced by \$136,682, and a dividend of 5 per cent. is declared.

A dozen of the best known business men of Toronto and Hamilton are on the board of this company, and its management is in very practical hands. It has something over \$330,000 in sound assets, and a reserve covering the Government requirement.

JANUARY FIRE LOSS.

The fire waste figures for the United States and Canada do not become any less appalling. Those for January this year are given by the New York "Journal of Commerce" at \$24,064,000, the highest January loss for a dozen years. The average of that month for ten years has been \$15,667,000. A list of sixteen fires last month in the big cities, from New York to Detroit, from Montreal to Winnipeg, cost the countries \$8,445,000 and the 150 "minor fires," \$10,000 to \$20,000 each, swept away \$2,270,000. These properties were as a rule well insured, so that the month must prove an expensive one for underwriters.

FIRE PROTECTION.

Not only because the two principal Canadian fire insurance companies do a large business in the States should the findings of the National Board of Fire Underwriters be watched by those on this side the Great Lakes, but also because the efforts of that important body in the direction of lessening of fire-waste contain valuable instruction in social economy.

The Fire Prevention Committee of the National Board has just issued a circular explaining the conference with the Chamber of Commerce of Cleveland, Ohio, on the recommendations for the improvement of the fire protection of that city, and showing that some have already been carried out. It is also made known that Cincinnati's water supply has been much increased, according to the engineers of the National Board, who have just inspected the city. One of the 30,000,000 gallon pumps in the eastern station and two of the 12,000,000 gallon pumps in the western station are ready for operation at any time.

The engineers of the committee of the board who deal with the question of fire prevention have been looking into the fire protection facilities of Quincy, Mass. The water pressure is found generally satisfactory. The fire brigade is undermanned and its apparatus as a whole inefficient, though discipline is strict and fire methods fair. As to conflagration hazard, to which attention is slowly being attracted throughout the Northern and Western States, the preponderance in Quincy of frame construction, poor electrical conditions and the inadequate fire department are declared to increase the fire hazard of the city materially, but, on the whole, the conflagration hazard is small and a local conflagration involving more than one block is a remote possibility.

LIFE INSURANCE.

The Colonial Life of Toronto, and the Reliance Life are applying to Ottawa for incorporation.

A bill to incorporate the Commercial Mutual Insurance Company has been read a third time in the Quebec Legislature.

It is stated that the Union Life Company, and the National Agency Company having bought out the Toronto Life Company, the Government has cancelled the license of the last-named and ordered the release of the securities deposited.

In the Canada Life's Glasgow agency Walter V. Cowley is manager and Robert J. C. Govan, assistant manager. The Confederation's branch secretary for the United Kingdom is G. T. Varney.

An Illinois fraternal concern, the "Loyal Americans of the Republic," has decided to leave that State because of a recent decision of the Illinois Supreme Court taxing the funds of American fraternal societies.

"It is not necessary," says a Western field man, "to adopt misleading and deceptive arguments to write life insurance; it is weak to do so, and no agent of any company who hopes for permanent success in any locality can afford to mislead anyone."

Accident benefits paid by the Travellers Insurance Co. last year were: For final injuries, \$453,795; for dismemberment and loss of sight, \$28,504; for indemnity for disabling injuries, \$661,643; for surgical benefits, \$16,138; including for double indemnity and accumulations, \$84,924.

The business of the Manufacturers' Life for 1906 is very satisfactory. Applications show a million increase. There is an increase of \$5,000,000 in total insurance in force, which amounts now to \$47,380,000. The net premium receipts were \$1,847,286, as compared with \$1,645,386. The surplus on policyholders' account is increased to \$1,078,102.

The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company has decided to add a treasurer to its former list of executive officers. Mr. J. T. Franks, who has for several years occupied the position of assistant secretary of the Company, has been chosen to fill the important new position. Mr. Franks has been in the employ of the Company almost since its inception. His experience, first as mortgage clerk, and afterwards as the managers assistant in the Investment Department, has particularly fitted him for the duties of the office he has been chosen to fill.

UNION LIFE OF MAINE.

In spite of the unfavorable year for life insurance in the States, the progress made by the Union Life of Maine rivals the strides of former years. The number of policies in force is increased to 47,467 insuring \$67,038,856, which is \$2,875,000 more than a year ago. From the fifty-seventh annual report submitted to the policyholders last week, it is seen that there were increases in new business written, in total assets, and in yearly income. The assets amount to \$12,295,465, and the surplus is \$399,141; the reserve being calculated at four per cent. on business written before January 1st, and at three per cent. on that written since.

As to death claims it is important to observe that twenty death claims, representing \$42,763 insurance, were paid during 1906 under policies kept in force entirely by the terms of the Maine Non-Forfeiture Law, which, since it was enacted, has been the means of saving for beneficiaries \$1,100,925 insurance under 559 claims, being nearly \$2,000 each. This law has helped, no doubt, to popularize the Union Mutual, but the knowledge that the company is sound and conducted with ability and with strict regard to the rights of the policyholders, is an attraction.

LIFE

The new risks written 1906 amounted to \$28,799,000 in force at the close of the year.

A number of life companies that teetotalers have moderate drinkers. The one which issued its 23rd annual mortality experience given number of years is than in the general. Autotallers are always and temperance section of the exceptionally profitable.

The much criticized Swettenham, has a good son and the Straits Settlements good work; too, in Den the past year or two, a growers of Jamaica. By the fruit by hurricanes cation has proved salutary stimulated fruit farm produce the thousand to take up

"Arts," Windsor, is the Actuarial Society of It either altered or producing the age limit for first to 21 years, the candidates awaiting examination of whom were Canadian States. Of these, fifteen one each Hamilton, Ottawa of the Americans were lord, three from New York

"Persistent canvassing Travelers Insurance Company showing for 1906. It is claim a gain instead of year. The life premium the accident premiums premiums, \$1,058,000. 224,187 accident policies pages of the Year Book company contains a list of the many millions of rail and stocks.

New members, number Commercial Travellers' and 24 death claims paid \$440,000 to beneficiaries stated at the annual Insurance Commission and he felt sure whatever the Commission would proper spirit. The office S. R. Wickett; vice-president Goodman; secretary, E. cies. Richard Ivens; trustees R. G. Hector, S. M. S. well. C. E. Kyle. R. C. N. Sutherland and F.

Objection is taken companies issuing guaranteed United States Post Office posing that the acceptance limited to 10 per cent. company issuing such bonds Guaranty Company of 1000 was in force up and Connecticut in which States Attorney-General be outside the authority force. President Bland workable, inasmuch as transportation bonds, bonds required by the tions for millions.

An Insurers' Mutual Toronto. Amongst the Messrs. J. J. Main, C. M.P.P., Dr. B. E. M. The capital stock of the may be increased. So charter are these: The the accumulated surplus than one-fifth of these next annual meeting of