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Successor to the late **F. H. REYNOLDS,**  
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### INSURANCE NOTES.

An incendiary was sentenced last week in a United States Court to 30 years in gaol. This will give him time for reflection, and keep innocent persons safe from his atrocious conduct for a generation.

There is no doubt the Simpson fire Toronto was incendiary, so, we believe, were those in January. All these occurred at about the same hour, and at corners of streets where the greatest damage would be done. From midnight to 2 or 3 o'clock a. m. is the favorite time for burglaries, incendiaries seem to favor that time also, as during no hours in the 24 are their operations so likely to be free from interruption.

The "Insurance and Financial Chronicle" was the first to announce that the Sun Life in future will adopt 4 per cent as its standard of valuation, the government one being 4½ per cent. This step is a case of taking time by the forelock. It is thought the low rate securable for investment will ere long induce all our life insurance companies to put the standard of valuation at a lower rate than the prevailing one. This step enhances the security of policy holders, which however is ample, but the Sun makes this assurance doubly sure.

Mr. J. H. Brock, general manager of the Great West Life Assurance Company, of Winnipeg, has returned from his annual tour of the eastern agencies. The Great West now carries on business in Canada from coast to coast, and during the coming year Mr. Brock expects a considerable extension of the business in the east. The annual meeting of the company will be held at Winnipeg on March 21. The statement to be presented will show a record placing the Great West almost in the front as regards the business of the year.

The "Bulletin" quotes an application for incorporation of a Benevolent Society of a life insurance character, at Petrolia, which has the following words, "and to secure for its members such other advantages as may be from time to time designated by the constitution and laws of the order." We agree with our contemporary that such vague, limitless powers ought not to be granted. Under such a clause the Society might open an Hotel, or run a department store. Societies asking incorporation ought to have their proposed business strictly defined, and the limits clearly fixed.

The Urban Mutual Fire Insurance company held its annual meeting at Portage la Prairie, Man., recently and selected the old officers and directors. They are:—President, Judge Ryan; vice-president Hon. Joseph Martin; treasurer, William Garland; managing director, W. P. Randle; directors, the officers and Messrs. T. H. Metcalf, J. G. Rutherford, W. W. Miller. The annual report shows the amount at risk is now \$300,000. There were \$25,000 less cancellations last year than during the former year. The losses for 1894 were \$1,000, the receipts \$2,000. The surplus of assets on hand is \$11,000, of which \$2,000 is cash deposited in the bank.

The Connecticut Insurance Inspector in an official report recommends says the "Spectator," that "in all large cities, at least, provision should be made for the inspection and regulation, by the city authorities, of all electrical construction, and for burying the wires, when properly protected, in all cases. Investigation has demonstrated the fact that a large number of fires occur annually through bad workmanship in the introduction of electricity to buildings of all kinds and it is believed that many of those fires whose origin is classed as "unknown" result from this cause. Underwriters have done much to counteract the baleful effects of careless or unskilful workmanship in dealing with electricity, but there is no more reason why they should be put to the expense of such of such inspections than there is for their present and enforcing building regulations generally. The work of regulating electrical installations should be done by the building departments in the various cities and experts employed in this branch of building construction at the expense of the expense of the municipalities and not at the cost of particular interest."

It is not just to impose such work on in-

surance companies, fire risks of this nature are public risks, the losses by fire are not confined to the companies, or the insured. Indeed the gravest losses, the losses of lives, and damage to the persons and property of employers, and others are so serious as to be of public concern.

The recent fire in Toronto will kill the Bill proposed to hand over the whole fire insurance business of that city, so far as buildings go, to a Corporation Commission. The scheme is as impracticable as it would be most disastrous were it attempted. A city that insures itself runs the risk of having all its assets swept away, and the policy holders "left lamenting" the absence of funds to pay their losses. The fire this year, had this scheme been at work, would have financially ruined the Commission. The Bill will not pass beyond the Legislative Committee, in our judgment. A more rotten scheme was never framed.

The following are the approximated losses by the Toronto fire of some of the leading companies:

Actina.....	\$15,000
Agricultural.....	7,500
Alliance.....	5,000
Atlas Assurance.....	10,000
Caldonian.....	25,000
Commercial Union.....	25,000
Connecticut Fire.....	15,000
Eastern Assurance.....	5,000
Economical.....	5,000
Fire Insurance Exchange.....	10,000
Gore Fire.....	5,000
Guardian Assurance Co.....	7,000
Hartford.....	5,000
Hand-in-Hand.....	10,000
Imperial.....	5,000
Lancashire Ins.....	30,000
Liverpool and London and Globe.....	30,000
London Ass. Corporation.....	15,000
London and Lancashire.....	20,000
Manchester Fire.....	12,000
National.....	10,000
North British & Mercantile.....	20,000
North America.....	10,000
Northern Assurance.....	25,000
Norwich Union.....	15,000
Phoenix of Brooklyn.....	30,000
Phoenix of Hartford.....	10,000
Queen Fire.....	10,000
Royal of England.....	25,000
Scottish Union & National.....	25,000
Sun Insurance Co. London.....	15,000
Union Assurance.....	10,000
United Fire.....	5,000
Wellington Mutual.....	1,500
Western Assurance Co. (part reinsured).....	40,000