

Notes and Items.

The Kentucky courts, have decided that bloodhound evidence is admissible, provided the dog has been proven to be so trained as to afford evidence of his capability of tracking a human being.

At the monthly meeting of the Life Underwriters Association of New York, held on May 24, it became known that the scheme of President Bowles of the National Board for the establishment of an hospital service, at Key West, for enlisted policy-holders, had fallen through for lack of support.

The last General Assembly of the State of Iowa fixed a tax upon the premiums of foreign insurance companies which the Scottish Union and National, among other companies, considers unconstitutional. The company has paid the tax imposed upon it, under protest, and will at once perfect an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Insurance Agency Corporation Limited. This newly chartered company was organized for business by the appointment of the following gentlemen, as directors for the ensuing year:—Messrs. Z. A. Lash, Q.C., Hugh Ryan, A. E. Plummer, Hon. L. M. Jones, James Hedley, Lieut.-Col. Tisdale M.P., W. B. McMurrich, Q.C., Walter E. H. Massey, and George H. Roberts. The last named gentleman will be the managing director, and secretary, and the scope of the company's prospectus ought to ensure plenty of business.

The Anderson Insurance Company (an insurance agency) has been incorporated at Salt Lake City with a capital stock of \$20,000 to carry on the business heretofore conducted by Hugh Anderson and Adolphe L. Jacobs. The company has the Utah general agencies of the Aetna, Alliance, Fireman's Fund, Glen's Falls, Hamburg-Bremen, London, Northern, Norwich Union, Scottish Union, and National, Niagara and Transatlantic, Lloyds' Plate Glass, New York Plate Glass, Travelers', and American Surety Company. Hugh Anderson is president; Adolphe L. Jacobs, vice-president and manager; Clarence Warnock, secretary; George M. Downey, treasurer.

The Insurance Commissioner of Wisconsin acknowledges the receipt of \$45,111 and some odd cents within the past few days as back fees and taxes from fire of the eight accident and casualty companies upon whom demands were made for license fees for each kind of business transacted running back for a number of years. The Travelers has all along contended that its license as a life company covered its accident business also, but the Supreme Court has decided otherwise. The Fidelity and Casualty of New York has appealed to the Supreme Court or a decision adverse to it, and has meanwhile given bonds in the sum of 10,000 pending decision.

"Closed for the present"—For about 15 years Mr. Alfred Hunt has run a private bank in Bracebridge, Ontario. When he started he was wealthy, and as a banker he has done a large and, many people thought, a profitable business. As a financial man he was considered sound, and many people have

left their money with him. Yesterday the bank was closed. In the evening two Dominion Bank officials came to town and were closeted with him. This morning there is a notice on the door of the bank in these words: "Closed for the present."

A depositor interviewed Mr. Hunt at his private residence this morning, and he said he intended to assign. He has an immense amount of property, and if it brings anything like its value it is thought everybody will get all that is due them. In the meantime, the temporary loss of money to merchants, as well as the loss to others, is causing considerable anxiety. —(Toronto World.)

The Institute of Marine Underwriters has been organized in New York, with offices at 49 Wall Street, room 13. Nearly all the marine companies, both foreign and domestic, were represented at the mutual meeting, where the object of the Association was declared to be to promote the good of its members by discussion of matters of interest to their line of business, and also by mutual acquaintance. A proposed constitution was read and discussed, to be adopted subsequently. Charles Platt, president of the Insurance Company of North America, was elected president; Auton A. Raven, president of the Atlantic Mutual of New York, was elected vice-president; L. Allyn Wight, of the British and Foreign Marine, was made secretary, and A. J. Macdonald, manager of the Thames and Mersey Insurance Company, treasurer. The Association has been in process of formation since March 14.

Negotiation are going on for the establishment in Cairo of a bank with a capital of \$5,000,000 privileged to issue notes payable on demand. The note circulation is to be guaranteed by a reserve of gold equal to one-half, and the remainder by securities approved by the Egyptian government at par values. It is proposed that the designation of the institution shall be the "National Bank of Egypt," and that government control shall be exercised by the nomination of a governor and two accountants. It is believed that the government support will insure the success of the note circulation, which will be a novelty in Egypt, where hitherto all operations have been settled in coin, and great public advantage is expected from the establishment of the bank, as the existing financial system is old-fashioned and inadequate for the requirements of the country since the great development of industrial enterprise by foreign and local capitalists. It is intended, when the conditions have been finally arranged between the promoters and the government, that the shares shall be issued in London, Paris, and Cairo. The number of applications already received in Cairo gives assurance that the scheme will have plenty of support.

Insurance—Meaning of "Total Destruction." In *Corbett vs. The Sping Garden Insurance Co.* (50 N. E. Rep. 282) the Court of Appeals of this State has just had occasion to define the term "total destruction," as used in a fire insurance policy. The Court holds that the total destruction of a building, within the meaning of a fire insurance policy insuring against such loss, means the complete destruction of the insured property so that nothing of value remains, and so that, though the materials of which the building was composed be not entirely destroyed or obliterated, and though part of the building be left standing, it has lost its character as a building, and has become instead a broken mass. In the case be-