

iniquitous and arbitrary trusts, etc.," which is about the sort of language to expect from a boor who would frame or defend such legislation. The companies are threatening to withdraw from the State which treats them thus. But this is not all. The State of Kansas is bitten with the same malady; a bill has been introduced into the legislature (on April 14th), which is "almost word for word with the new law of Arkansas above described." According to a despatch of 16th inst.: State Senator Barry Miller of the Dallas district said to-night: "The bill will pass and become a law, in my judgment. It is in exact accord with the demand of the Democratic platform for the destruction of trusts. One State alone cannot destroy trusts. Texas proposes to line up with Arkansas, and hopes that all the other States will line up with them. That's the only way to destroy the trusts effectually and throughout the country." The people of Arkansas or of Kansas do not yet realize what they are doing. If they drive the insurance companies away and are thus left without indemnity in case of loss by fire, they will come to their senses.

PROVIDENT SAVINGS LIFE.

To select a successor to Mr. Matson in the general management for Ontario of the Provident Savings Life Assurance Society of New York, seems to have been the errand which brought this week to Toronto Mr. Ralph K. Hubbard, assistant secretary, and Mr. E. W. Scott, jr., superintendent of agencies for the company. There was no lack of applicants for the position, and some of them doubtless were qualified by experience for the post. But the choice of the company has been made in the person of Mr. George A. Kingston, who has been for years of the legal firm, Lount, Marsh & Cameron, and is well known to the profession. As the firm in question has long been legal advisers of the Provident Life, Mr. Kingston has become familiar with the company's business, and possesses, we believe, qualities which should make him a good general agent. It is not every day that it is found possible to persuade a barrister to leave his briefs and enter the insurance arena.

A very convenient suite of offices has been secured by the Provident in Temple Chambers, corner Bay and Richmond streets, and are being nicely fitted up for the purposes of the company. Neat and attractive surroundings are found in these days to be good for office employees; and some shrewd folks have found out that they have a charm for the insuring public, too. Our readers do not need to be reminded of the character of the Provident Savings Life. It was founded by one of the ablest of American underwriters, the late Sheppard Homans, has built up a large business and is in a sound position. The business of 1897 exceeded \$25,000,000, and the total in force exceeds \$85,000,000. It has assets of close upon three millions of dollars, and a surplus of half a million. Furthermore, the company possesses an able and energetic administration. The business in Canada has grown, inside of ten years, to \$4,200,000 in force, under 1,800 policies, and its annual premium income exceeded \$114,000 by the latest insurance Blue Book.

MARITIME ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION.

A convention of the electrical engineers of the Maritime Provinces was held in Halifax last week. About forty were present out of a total membership of 62. The chair was occupied by Mr. F. A. Bowman of Glasgow, the president, who remarked, in his address, upon the steady progress that had been made in the electrical industries of the Maritime Provinces. Papers whose titles follow were read and discussed: Iron-oreoured Conduit Installation at New Drill Shed, J. R. Griffin; Fire Alarm Telegraph Systems, P. R. Colpitt, city electrician, Halifax; Reminiscences, F. A. Hamilton; Church Wiring with Iron-armoured Conduit, J. A. Anderson; Steam Engineering, P. Freeman, Chief Engineer Halifax Tramway; Electric Meters, R. T. MacKeen; Telephones, J. H. Winfield, of New Glasgow; History of Electric Lighting in Halifax, W. Pickles. The officers for the ensuing year are these: President—F. A. Huntress, Halifax. Vice-president—P. R. Colpitt, Halifax. Secretary-treasurer—R. T. MacKeen, Halifax. Executive Committee—H. Brown, St. John; John Edington,

Moncton; J. E. Waddell, Summerside; F. A. Hamilton, Irving Smith, J. A. Anderson, Wm. Pickles, Halifax. The Halifax members of the association entertained the visiting members to a banquet at the New Victoria Hotel.

MANUFACTURE AND INDUSTRY.

The Chicago Times-Herald, of Chicago, said on Saturday last that the contracts had been signed in London Friday, which formally transferred to a single organization practically all of the larger producing copper mines in the United States. The details are meagre.

The clay deposits found at Pugwash, Nova Scotia, are of a quality suitable for making not only very fine bricks but terra cotta and other wares. A charter has been granted recently for the Maritime Clay Works, Ltd., whose headquarters are at Pugwash. The company will manufacture building and fire brick, terra cotta, etc. The plant which is now being put in when in operation will be capable of turning out 60,000 brick a day, employing 76 men. Orders are already booked for several million bricks. The fire bricks and terra cotta works will be carried on winter and summer. The promoter and manager of this new industry, says The Amherst Gazette, is our enterprising young townsman, R. W. V. Brownell. We hear from another source that the erection of the company's new buildings has begun. The main building is 60x61 feet. The dryers, fitted with steam tunnels, are 60x100 feet. The plant will have 15 kilns. On the engine and boiler room is a steel smoke stack, 130 feet high and about seven feet in diameter. The company own 10 acres of land, which will be used for their plant, of which 125 tons of machinery are now being placed and installed. These works control extensive areas of clay deposits which are suitable.

Business is not bad down on the New Brunswick coast. At all events Mr. S. R. Gaudet, of Memramcook, finds it needful to add more machinery to his wood working factory and flour mill. His present power plant being taxed beyond its capacity, he has ordered a 100 h.p. Robb-Armstrong engine, with boiler, from the Robb Engineering Co. It is further of interest to learn, as illustrating that municipalities are looking after their responsibilities, that the town council of Truro, Nova Scotia, has decided to purchase a 100 h.p. Mumford improved boiler from the Robb Engineering Co. at Amherst, to replace the boilers at present in use in their pumping station.

The American output of Bessemer steel ingots in 1898, says The London Iron and Coal Review, was 6,609,017 tons against 1,759,386 tons in Britain. American production of steel rails, 1,955,427 tons, against 751,591 tons for Britain. The Review admits that the serious decline in the British Bessemer rail industry is mainly due to American competition, and America has been especially aggressive in the export of steel rails, having exported nearly 300,000 tons in 1898. It thinks England has lost a good deal of money by sticking to the established price of £4 12s. 6d. per ton for rails.

J. N. Wigle of Essex has gone to Kentucky to purchase tobacco presses for the English buyer, who is expected to buy Ontario tobacco leaf. Estimates are being obtained for a building in Leamington that will be used for pressing and sorting the tobacco. The building they propose to build is 200 feet long, 90 feet wide and three stories high.

The Canadian Locomotive Works, of Kingston, Ont., have received an order for two standard eight-wheel engines for the Quebec Central Railway Company.

What is known as the Oliver equipment for the Canadian militia is being made in Toronto, 150 hands being employed, opposite the St. Lawrence Hall, by the contractors. The equipment consists of the valise, the waist belt, the haversack, the cartridge pouch, and water bottle. The leather is brown. The brass buttons are from the States, but the other brass fittings are made in Canada.

The following letter from an American Company has been forwarded by the British consul in Chicago to the Department of Trade and Commerce: "At the present time the trust in this country control about 98 per cent. of the wire output. We are now looking to see if it is possible for us to buy in any other country at a lower price than they are making. If you are in possession of prices or addresses of any wire mills, either in