A POSSIBLE HARDSHIP WHICH MIGHT BE OBVIATED WITHOUT ANY GREAT DIFFICULTY.

The Colonial Governments have still to learn a good deal on the subject of making a successful loan issue. In the advertisement of the West Australian loan, which is just now being published, there is the following paragraph:—

The principal will be payable at the same bank on May 1, 1935, but the Government of Western Australia have the option of redemption at par, in London, on or after May 1, 1915, on giving twelve calendar months' notice by advertisement in the *London Gazette* and in the *Times* newspaper, or by post to the then stockholders at their registered addresses.

Now, if there is one thing more than another which characterises the subscriptions to colonial loans it is the participation in them of the small investor, who, possessed of £50, or, it may be, of even a few hundreds, finds a safe investment for his money by lending it to his colonial cousins. Why should such people be penalised by being compelled to buy one of two expensive newspapers in order to see public notices with reference to their holdings? For, unless the notice is given by post, they must buy the *Times* or the *Gazette* not once, nor twice, in order to see the notice of redemption, if given. Imagine the holder of £200 of West Australian stock living in a remote hamlet of Cornwall. What chance has he of seeing the *Times* or the *London Gazette* unless he specially orders one of them at considerable expense?

To buy the *Times* costs 1s. 6d. a week, or nearly £4 a year. To buy the *London Gazette* would cost about 10s. a month, or £6 a year. We have not a word to say against either of these organs, but if the West Australian Government is unaware of the existence of penny daily newspapers in London—many of them having a circulation much larger than that of the *Times* or the *London Gazette*—we shall be most pleased to supply its London agents with a list of such papers, and to indicate where their offices may be found.

(Financial News.)

THE FIRE RECORD.

Fire at Chatham—McNaughton, Walker & Co., Refrigerating Warehouse. The following Cos. are interested :—

On Contents.

L., L. & G.	$1,500	
Imperial	2,000	
Caledonian	5,000	
Com. Union	3,000	Loss $6,144
North American	2,500	
Union	4,500	
Manchester	3,000	Building
Quebec	3,000	Com. Union $4,000
Scot. Union & Nat	3,000	Loss $1,000
Western	2,500	
	$30,000	

Montreal Fires. The serious fires of Wednesday and Thursday of this week will entail heavy loss upon the insurance companies. We are able to give a list of the companies interested; but the following account obtained as we are going to press may be supplemented later :—

On Peck, Benny & Co.—Aetna $9,913, Alliance $6,100, Commercial Union $7,625, Guardian $7,625, Hartford $7,625, Lancashire $7,625, Liverpool & London & Globe $15,250, London $11,438, Northern $6,100, Norwich Union $6,100, North America $7,625, Phenix, of Brooklyn $11,457, Phoenix, of London $11,438, Royal $19,062, Union $7,625, Western $9,912. Total insurance amounts to $152,500. Loss is estimated about 40 per cent.

On Messrs. J. & B. Griers, Saw Mill. The only insurance was $2,000 in the Queen, whilst the loss on building, machinery and stock will amount to from $8,000 to $9,000.

On the St. Lawrence Cement Cos. building. The Lancashire carried $2,500 and the Queen $2,500, on their machinery and stock, the Commercial Union carried $2,500; Liverpool & London & Globe, $2,500; Royal, $2,500; Union, $2,500. Total insurance, $15,000. The total loss will be about the same.

PERSONALS.

Mr. A. L. Eastmure, Vice-President and Managing Director of the Ontario Accident Insurance Co., Toronto, has been visiting Montreal this week.

Mr. J. E. Gaudet, Manager of the People's Bank, of Halifax, at Quebec, visited Montreal on Wednesday last.

Mr. C. D. Hanson paid a visit to his office on the 28th July. His friends were more than pleased to see his familiar face in the Imperial Building once again. All look forward to the pleasure of seeing him able to resume business in a few weeks.

Notes and Items.

See advertisement in this issue for consideration by Insurance Agents wishing to enter the service of a first-class company.

A Case before Judge French recently should be utilized by the proprietors of "Tatcho" as an advertisement. A lady summoned one of her lodgers for a week's rent. Defendant pleaded that he did not think the demand should be made upon him, as he was practically told to leave every time he entered the house. Thereupon the plaintiff pathetically told his honour, "I have a very select party of young men lodgers, and I certainly object to letting my rooms to old men such as he is." "But what objection had you?" asked his honour. "Well," explained the plaintiff, "when he took the room he kept his hat on, and I naturally thought by the look of him that he was a young man, but, much to my astonishment, when he came down to dinner in the evening, I saw he was quite bald. I then told him that his room was preferable to his company. (Loud laughter.) I intended that I would serve his dinner by himself until he went, but instead of that he took himself off." His Honour: "A very proper proceding, I should think. Judgment for defendant."

A funny tale comes from remote Gualeguaychu, Argentina. The holder of the ticket winning $30,000 in a recent Buenos Ayres lottery was a Spanish working man; but the day before the drawing he had torn up the ticket in an ecstasy of joy over the news of an imaginary great Spanish victory in Cuba. He now regrets his patriotic enthusiasm.