

University Insurance Course It is on the cards that an insurance course will be established at the University of Chicago. The scheme proposed embraces a series of lectures to be delivered at Chicago and at a number of educational institutions in connection with the University of that city. This system has not been adopted in Canada, where the professional staff of each college confines his teaching to the students. In the States there are professors whose duties are perambulatory—they deliver lectures at a number of colleges in different parts of the country. The lecturers on insurance are to adopt this system. The "Insurance Press" states that the originator of this movement is Mr. H. B. Seeley, a Chicago architect, who proposes to have courses in a dozen of the larger institutions of the Middle and Western States, principally in the State universities, with the University of Chicago as the centre. There is to be a two-year course, mainly technical, at the outlying colleges, followed by a two-year course, economic and clinical, at the University of Chicago. At the other colleges the students will work under the professors there, along a prescribed course; lectures being delivered by a corps of experts to be provided by the Western Union and National Board, Mr. Seely to lecture on construction and the economics of insurance and to be in general charge. The State universities are to establish travelling fellowships studying at the University of Chicago, the incumbents being developed later into experts authorized to act for the State in the investigation of fire-waste, and cooperating to make the data at the center complete for the entire West. Research work is to be carried on in Chicago, the companies to furnish the equipment of the department, while the universities are to pay the salary of the economist and the travelling expenses of the experts, whose employers are to contribute their time. The companies are to be requested to encourage the scheme by employing graduates who have taken the insurance course. The proposal, as outlined, provides only for instruction in fire insurance, but if the scheme is well supported, a life course will doubtless be added.

Marble Block Versus Statuary.

A firm in London England, recently sued a Lloyds underwriter for \$37.50 amount of damage alleged to have been done to "marble in case" in transit by rail. The marble was a piece of sculpture, not a block or slab as the underwriter believed it to be, as he swore in Court that he would never have taken any risk on a marble statue. The underwriter won, as it was ruled that "marble in case" does not fairly describe the contents. What can be gained by a shipper concealing the exact character of the goods he is forwarding and insuring? If he insures them under a description which

secures a lower rate than what an underwriter would charge were the truth known to him, he only saves something in case the goods arrive in good order and no claim arises. But, if something happens to create a claim against the underwriter, the defect in description and concealment of the actual nature of the goods insured by the shipper will be certain to upset his claim, so that his premium will have been wasted and probably money also thrown away in a law suit.

An Insurance Poet.

Although versifiers abound in insurance circles, their efforts have never in our experience gone beyond "the accomplishment of verse." It is a surprise to find a poem of about 500 lines in THE SURVEYOR, written by Mr. Jas. G. Batterson, of Hartford, well known as President of the Traveller's Insurance Co. We say "poem" advisedly for the structure, motive, and rhythm of this composition move on a high literary plane. The poem, entitled "The Beginnings," discusses with eloquence the great problems associated with the origin of the universe. The theme is akin to Virgil's, and was treated two centuries ago by Blackmore in "The Creation." Mr. Batterson seems to aim at blending modern science with faith. Some of the lines are very graphic, such as,

"The power which shapes a raindrop, shaped the earth."

His muse has been too retiring, but doubtless the faculty he possesses, as shown by the poem in THE SURVEYOR, has ever been a source of the most unalloyed pleasure.

The gift of verse has been enjoyed by men of the highest distinction as statesmen, financiers, bankers and merchants. The founder of the Bank of England, the celebrated Montague, won his first fame as a poet. Pitt, Gladstone, Lord Derby, three most illustrious of English premiers, published poems. Mr Batterson as a business man, when taking his leisure on Mount Parnassus, is therefore in very good company.

Pacific Coast Fire Business.

The Coast Review gives tables showing the fire insurance record of Pacific Coast and Rocky Mountains for from 10 to 19 years. From these statistics we cull figures showing the business of 11 districts in 1900. and the average loss ratio in past years.

	Premiums.	Losses.	Ratio of losses. Per cent.	Average ratio.
Arizona.....	266,087	567,519	213.3	85.9
California.....	5,795,503	2,430,241	42.7	47.5
Colorado.....	1,999,823	754,332	37.7	44.2
Idaho.....	271,209	115,156	42.5	71.7
Montana.....	825,623	448,366	54.3	39.7
Nevada.....	106,196	46,976	44.2	39.9
New Mexico.....	116,211	52,339	45.0	55.3
Oregon.....	1,089,084	363,965	33.5	45.1
Utah.....	370,681	88,542	23.9	44.5
Washington.....	1,759,686	658,669	37.4	64.7
Wyoming.....	151,909	46,991	30.9	39.1

The averages of Arizona, Idaho and Washington are raised by the disasters of 1884, 5, 6, 9; 1893, 4, and 9, in which years the losses ran few beyond premiums.