

seeks to rely simply upon the written contract. If the court will permit this, it asks no favours. As it must necessarily act through agents it is essential to the conduct and maintenance of its business that the authority of its agents be definitely prescribed."

A lively debate followed on the reduction of the limit of weekly indemnity to 52 weeks. Opinions varied widely, some saying the longer indemnity had not brought business, while others differed.

During the evening after this session a storm burst over the district which caused alarm and disruption of telegraph business. Next day 12 more delegates arrived.

At the early session Captain Masters made caustic remarks on sensational advertizing. The question, "Shall beneficiary insurance be continued" brought out a unanimous negative vote. Another lively debate occurred over the question, "Shall the accumulative feature be discontinued?" the result being its delegation to the executive committee. Dangerous trades were considered and some valuable remarks made on "Fatigue as a Feature in Sickness Insurance." Expert evidence shows that overworked people are more prone to resort to alcoholic stimulants and those who are fatigued are especially exposed to accidents and disease.

On the 19th, a successful banquet was held which was partaken of, by 150 visitors. An address was delivered on professional claimants and a very pleasant time spent in social enjoyment.

The delegates greatly enjoyed boating on the Muskoka lakes, along the shores of which pleasant picnics were held and fishing indulged in by anglers.

The Muskoka Convention of Accident Underwriters will long be remembered for its happy personal associations and the instructive and inspiring papers and discussions which made the gathering as serviceable as it was enjoyable.

MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY COMPANY.

The June statement of the Street Railway Company is naturally very favourable as warm weather develops traffic.

The passenger earnings in June were \$244,435, an increase of \$14,870 over same month 1904. The miscellaneous earnings were \$3,764, making the total earnings \$15,590. The operating expenses of \$137,503 reduced the earnings to a net sum of \$110,606 being \$9,584 in excess of a year ago. The fixed charges were \$29,514, leaving a surplus of \$81,082 as against \$74,726 in previous June.

The nine months passenger earnings were \$1,899,506, being an increase of \$154,434 over same period 1903-4. The fixed charges and operating expenses were also heavier. The surplus at end of June was \$466,303, the increase in nine months being \$29,693.

The judgment of the Judicial Committee of Privy Council in *re* the dispute with the Montreal City Council has not been given. When the suburban municipalities are annexed this question will settle itself.

INVESTIGATION OF INSURANCE COMPANIES BY COMMISSION IN STATE OF NEW YORK.

The Legislative Assembly of New York State has adopted a resolution providing for a commission to investigate the insurance companies operating in that State for the expenses of which \$500,000 was provided.

This action of the legislature, in both branches, was taken in accordance with a message from the Governor of the State, the response to which was prompt.

The message of Governor Higgins is somewhat lengthy. The opening section reads as follows:

"The unfortunate scandals recently made public by the internal dissensions in the Equitable Life Assurance Society, and by the comprehensive investigation of its affairs by the superintendent of insurance, have, not without just cause, aroused a feeling of intense alarm in the breasts of the thousands of our citizens who have invested their money in policies of life insurance, and of the thousands of non-residents who have been taught to respect the New York companies as safe and secure. While the business of life insurance as at present conducted is subject to State supervision and regulation for the purpose of guaranteeing solvency and the fulfillment of contracts on the part of the companies, it is evident that evils and abuses may exist under our law; that earnings which should be credited to the policy-holders may be diverted to other purposes; that expenses of operation may be extravagant and wasteful; that unwise investments may be legally made, and that trustees may deal indirectly with the trust funds for their personal advantage. That such a condition of affairs can exist reflects discredit upon the State.

"Legislation is no panacea for the ills of the body-politic that rise from a disordered moral sense. The multiplication of penal statutes does not diminish the spirit of lawlessness, but is rather a symptom of its growth. But it is apparent that our insurance law is in some particulars obsolescent and inadequate, and that the management of the funds of these great companies is not sufficiently safeguarded.

"The State owes a duty to policy-holders and beneficiaries beyond that of comparing assets with liabilities and permitting the companies to justify their existence by the exhibition of a satisfactory balance sheet and the prompt payment of losses. Investments must be restricted; salaries must be limited to amounts bearing a closer relation to the commercial value of the services rendered; trustees must be held to a stricter accountability, and the policy-holders must be given a more effective share in the Government of the companies. It may well be that the harsh and arbitrary remedy of dissolution and receivership should be made not only a penalty for insolvency, but also a summary check upon a solvent company when it becomes irredeem-