

\$1 22½ a ton. This ice sold at \$4 a ton would pay the company 230 per cent. If the ice cost the company \$1 50 a ton it could be sold to butchers and restaurants at 20 cents a hundred and afford a profit. Including every item of expense, ice delivered to families would cost \$3 54."

The rate of the American Ice Company is \$12.

Several of the New York papers state that, in the creation of this monopoly, it became necessary to purchase the real estate of rival companies at fancy figures, and this is seriously given by a representative of the company as a reason for advancing the price.

However, the evils of such cruel combinations as the one now exposed will, some day, work out their own cure.

A Correction.

In our correspondence column, we publish a letter from Mr. Thompson, manager for Canada of the Lancashire Insurance Company, which is self-explanatory. We regret extremely that our London correspondent, who is a very accurate and careful letter-writer, and whose information is, as a rule, of the most reliable character, should have been misinformed in the matter in question.

The Mutual Life and Prussia.

We have already set forth the circumstances attending the expulsion of the Mutual Life from Prussia, and the application of the company to Congress for redress of its grievances. Although resident managers of the Prussian fire companies in the States are giving themselves no uneasiness over the petition, taking the position that the whole matter was fought out on its merits last year and settled to the entire satisfaction of both the New York state officials and the Prussian authorities, it seems that a question which for months has been considered closed by the officials of the Empire State is likely to be re-opened.

On the 30th ult. after members of the House Committee on Commerce had conferred with the Secretary of State, the committee voted to favorably report the following resolution :

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be and he is hereby requested to take all steps which may be necessary and proper to obtain from the Government of the Kingdom of Prussia a revocation of the order of August 14, 1895, by which the privilege of transacting business in that kingdom was withdrawn from the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York.

Perhaps the Prussian government may be prevailed upon to reconsider its action. At all events, the Mutual Life is to be commended for fighting in very vigorous fashion for what they believe to be righteousness and justice.

The Growth of Competition.

If the action of the Prussian government is in any way owing to pressure brought by the life companies of that country anxious to get rid of powerful and active foreign competitors, the Mutual Life may find comfort in the success of an American Foundry Company in securing admission into Turkey. It seems that after a long delay Lloyd C. Griscom, United States Charge d'Affaires at Constantinople, Turkey, has obtained permission for the importation of an important consignment of flour milling machinery ordered in the United States by a merchant of Ismid. It is probable the difficulty was due to the action of the native millers who are fearful of the competition of a mill equipped on American principles. This may be the means of creating an extensive demand for such machinery in Turkey.

If insurance on American principles threatens the existence of the Prussian article, the Prussian companies cannot do better than produce policies of equal attractiveness to those "manufactured in New York."

The Pastor, The Prayer, The Brewer and The Underwriter

The majority of mankind have had experience of the efficacy of medicine in counteracting disease, and some may truthfully claim to have received striking proof of the efficacy of prayer. Among the latter may surely be included the pastor of a church in that "sweet land of liberty" where freedom of speech is supposed to prevail. A brewery being established in a Western parish, alarm for the safety and sobriety of his flock caused the preacher to invoke high heaven in eloquent indignation to fall upon the beer factory and crush it. We are charitable enough to think the good man did not intend to be taken in earnest. Perhaps he had frequently asked for other favors and received no response. However, he ought now to believe in the efficacy of prayer, for, although the heavens did not fall and crush the brewery, the lightning consumed it. 'Tis said that lightning never strikes twice in the same place. In this instance it would be unnecessary, as there is no place to strike. Thunder first turned the beer sour. At least, some of the lost sheep of the congregation now say so. Then the lightning got in its work, and the brewery is no more.

It seems a pity that there should be any unpleasant results emanating from a simple prayer. At the same time we must sympathize with the brewer who, at the suggestion of an interested insurance company, has commenced suit against the preacher. We are glad that the judges are to have the privilege of considering the punishment which has come down upon this unhappy brewer, apparently at the request of the preacher. Yet we should be sorry to see the