

The Hartford Fire Insurance Company announces that it has arranged to open an account in the Imperial Bank of Toronto, and hereafter all claims accruing under Canadian policies will be paid in the currency of the Dominion.

A Scotch Court has decided that a bicycle is not a carriage nor other passenger vehicle as expressed in an accident policy. The case arose from a claim for \$5,000, the deceased having come to his death by a bicycle accident. On the above ground the claim was disallowed.

At the last annual meeting of the Scottish Union & National, the chairman said: "I should like to acknowledge the services of our friend, Mr. Bennett who conducts our business in the United States, and who has deservedly the reputation of being one of the most able and conservative of American underwriters."

The New York League of Wheelmen reports that "fifty per cent. of all bicycle riders have to lay up for repairs once each season from broken collar bones, dislocations, sprains, wounds, to say nothing of occasional deaths." Carelessness is the cause of many accidents, but the League reports serious ones to the most careful riders.

With the increase of silver theories in Colorado has come a decrease in the theory of Denver Departments, the most recent example being the probable removal to San Francisco of H. T. Lamey, the vigorous and accomplished manager of the British America and Western Assurance companies of Toronto, which intend to unite their mountain and Pacific departments. —*The Spectator*.

The suit of the Compagnie d'Assurances Generale of Paris against the Mutual Life of New York has been decided against the latter. The charge was the singular one of carrying on unfair competition, which forms a ground of action under the French Civil Code. The Mutual Life will have to pay \$5,000 and costs for having conducted its business in France with greater energy and skill than its great rival.

A dinner at the Hotel Cecil was recently given to Mr. Burnett by all the branch managers connected with the London office of the North British & Mercantile Mr. Burnett, who is the head of the fire underwriting department, having been dangerously ill, his happy recovery became the occasion of this spontaneous testimony of the esteem and affection in which he is held by his provincial coadjutors. —*Insurance Agent*.

In a city where street numbers are a good deal mixed, and the upper stories often are difficult to be distinguished by the numbers of those on the ground floor, the following decision will have interest. We quote from *Rough Notes*, the legal department of which is so valuable. An insurance policy covered goods "contained in a brick block Nos. 82-90 W. street. Insured occupied the fifth story over stores numbered 82 to 90, also fifth story over a store numbered 80, the only entrance to the premises being stairway numbered 82, except a freight elevator in the rear of No. 80. The entire premises from No. 80 to No. 90 were built and remodeled at the same time; the front upon the street being same in appearance and owned by same person. From the hallway over No. 82 doors opened on both sides into rooms occupied by insured. No. 80 being used as a wareroom. Judgment was that the policy covered the goods in the room over No. 80.

Insurance is playing a star part in the Presidential Campaign, says *The Insurance Press*. What with life, fire, marine, etc., the cutting in two of insurance if Bryan is elected, people are seeing what the actual personal, individual effect will be. The policyholders in Buffalo are much stirred up over Bryan's speech there, they are not only flocking to protect their policies, but are bitter in denunciation of a man who uses all his cunning and energy to stir up the poor against the rich.

Persons who leave their houses closed for any length of time should take especial pains to see that there is no leakage of gas, and any smell of gas should be promptly reported to the company. A splendid house was utterly wrecked in New York on 24th August owing to its becoming filled with gas while closed. A workman in the street was testing the service pipe with a match. The gas ignited, and the flame entered the house which instantly blew up as though charged with gun powder.

The United States Life Insurance Company complains of being, "very considerably credited with the evils and shortcomings of certain assessment associations whose names bear a close similarity to its own." Especially is this the case with the "United Life Association of New York," which it must be very annoying for so strong a company as the United States Life to be mistaken for, as the former small concern is likely to be wound up. "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," is a proverb, but such flattery as is thus implied by copying the title of a highly reputable insurance company is highly offensive, discreditable, and wholly without excuse.

A resolution adopted by the Baltimore clearing house, on the subject of the indorsement of commercial paper, went into effect July 1. Under its provisions the various banks agree not to transmit through the exchanges any checks, drafts, notes, bills of exchange, or other items which have any qualified or restrictive indorsement, such as "for collection" or "for account of," without guaranteeing that the amount and all indorsements are correct and genuine. This action has also been taken by the New York clearing house and similar bodies in other leading cities. It was decided upon owing to recent court decisions which relieved the banks sending papers so indorsed from liability in cases of error or forgery. By the terms of the new agreement the correspondent or person sending commercial paper to the banks guarantees the endorsement and becomes liable for any loss.

Marine business has been exceptionally good this season. The *Detroit Free Press* says: "It is probable that there has not been a season on the lakes within the past fifteen years when losses sustained by underwriters up to September have been less than during the present season. There have been no total losses involving big sums, and the steel vessels have been remarkably free from strandings. The heaviest loss thus far sustained will result from the Chisholm-Oceanica collision, which occurred near Detroit recently; but even in this case there is no grain, flour or other valuable cargo destroyed, and the vessels will be in commission again shortly. It is unfortunate for the regular companies doing the business on the lakes, however, that they are 'not in it' during this period of good luck. As usual, they have less than their share of the business during a season that bids fair to be profitable to underwriters. The 'foreigners' have the great bulk of the best risks."