

about prematurely, but with such a staff of medical advisers as are in attendance on the King, even the authority of royalty will be under control. King Edward VII will be the "subject" of his doctors and nurses.

The City Council has refused a grant towards commencing work on the Contagious Diseases' Hospital. It is deplorable that our afflicted fellow-creatures and fellow-citizens should have their sufferings aggravated because a few aldermen are bent on having their own way. Mutual concessions should be made and business principles observed in so grave a matter and less obstinacy. The insistence upon Fletcher's Field as the site of this hospital is wholly irrational; it is a display of self-will and a determination to over-ride the general feelings of the public. Whoever tries to play Dictator to Montreal undertakes a larger contract than can be accomplished.

As usual with every enterprise designed and well-calculated to advance the interests of this city, there is delay in connection with the Carnegie library scheme. Prompt, business like, reasonable action in furtherance of a public enterprise is decidedly no weakness of the local powers that be. Probably no argument could be framed to demonstrate the need of a city library so forcible as the display made in obstructing the Carnegie library scheme.

The miners' strike is drawing to a close, which will be followed by great distress amongst those who have wasted their incomes, and incurred debts by which they and their creditors will be long embarrassed.

Mr. G. F. C. Smith, the much respected resident Secretary of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company has given his reminiscences of a conflagration in this city which took place on the 8th and 9th July fifty years ago, 1852. This fire laid waste the whole of St. Mary street, now Notre Dame east, as far as where the jail stands. Mr. Smith saw the fire on his way to the office and spent the day in helping to extinguish it. The great company he represents decided to establish a branch in Montreal in consequence of this disaster. At that time hand pumps only were used and water had to be drawn in puncheons from the river.

The announcement in a recent issue that Mr. E. A. Lilly had resigned from the representation of the London Assurance Corporation, has naturally brought out a number of applications for this vacant position. From all we hear we are inclined to believe that the general desire in insurance circles is, to see the misunderstanding cleared away and Mr. Lilly's resignation withdrawn.

#### FIRE LOSS FOR FIRST HALF OF 1902.

The fire loss for June and the half-year ended 30th June last is stated by the New York "Commercial Bulletin" as follows:

|               | 1902.        | 1901.        | 1900.         |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| January.....  | \$15,032,800 | \$16,574,950 | \$11,755,300  |
| February..... | 21,010,500   | 13,992,000   | 15,427,000    |
| March.....    | 12,056,600   | 15,036,250   | 13,349,200    |
| April.....    | 14,894,600   | 11,352,800   | 25,727,000    |
| May.....      | 14,866,000   | 22,380,150   | 15,759,400    |
| June.....     | 10,245,300   | 9,590,000    | 21,281,000    |
| Totals.....   | \$87,105,850 | \$88,926,150 | \$103,298,900 |

## Notes and Items.

### At Home and Abroad.

NOT A SINGLE PASSENGER WAS KILLED by the train service in England last year.

THE ROYAL is announced to have ceased writing risks on railway properties.

THE SAVINGS BANKS IN STATE OF MAINE hold deposits to amount of \$71,849,570.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 3rd July, 1902: clearings, \$1,431,834; balances, \$295,050.

AN ENGLISH COMPANY has bought the property of the Corundum Co., Stony Lake, Ont., with the intention to develop the mines, which, it is stated, will employ 300 men.

INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE POLICIES are in force in Canada to extent of 25½ millions of dollars, the number of policies being over 200,000.

THE HOME INSURANCE Co. is announced as having decided not to open out in England, the prospects are not sufficiently inviting, says President Washburn.

THE LATE LORD PAUNCEFOTE, late Ambassador of Great Britain to the United States, held a policy of a large figure issued by the Mutual Life of New York, which was promptly paid.

AT PLYMOUTH, Eng., on 14th June, a departmental store was wholly destroyed by fire, inflicting a loss of \$275,000 on the insurance companies, the companies involved being those whose names are most familiar in Canada.

HOW EXTRAVAGANCE in statement overshoots its mark is shown by the prospectus of a new British insurance company, which declares that one company pays 25,000 per cent. per annum on its original capital. A statement like that is a perfect scare-crow to intelligent investors.

THE MORTALITY RECORD OF FIRE COMPANIES is shown by a chart issued by the Glen Falls Insurance Company. Of the fire companies existing in, and organized since 1871, 128 have retired or collapsed. Fire burns up companies as well as properties.

IN A SUIT OF A TELEPHONE COMPANY against the Maryland Casualty, the Minnesota Supreme Court has rendered a decision in which it holds that the accident company is not liable under the policy unless it is at once notified of the accident. In this case an employee of the telephone company was injured. No notice was given the insurance company which had issued the employers' liability policy, and a year later the employee sued and got a verdict for \$750, which the telephone people wanted the insurance company to pay. The "U.S. Review" thinks the Telephone Co. will know better next time.