

## Notes and Items.

Kansas City has decided on a complete new system of water works to cost \$7,000,000.

The East Tennessee Insurance Co. has reinsured in the American Fire of New York.

Chicago has added five new companies, fully equipped, to its already large fire department.

It is said that twelve Lloyds underwriters of London have abandoned the business on account of heavy losses.

The Salem (Mass.) Marine insurance company has retired and reinsured in the Insurance Co. of North America.

The town of Carberry, Manitoba, has had the commendable forethought to appropriate \$3,000 for fire protective appliances.

The Neptune F. & M. insurance company, of Boston, retires, and has re-insured in the Providence-Washington. The company was organized in 1872.

The State organizer in New York for the "Peoples' Five-Year Benefit Order" ran against a snag at Canastota, and is now awaiting the action of the grand jury.

The Union insurance company of Louisville has re-insured in the German-American of New York. Its capital is \$100,000, and the risks in force about \$4,500,000.

The Scottish Temperance Life of Glasgow has recently been registered to transact life and accident business in British Columbia, with its principal office at Vancouver.

The Enterprise Fire Ins. Co. of Cincinnati has reinsured in the Royal. The company was organized in 1866. Its assets on Dec. 31, 1890, were \$235,129, and net premium receipts for 1890 \$62,810.

The death is announced of Mr. Martin Bennett, sen. at Hartford, father of the well known United States manager of the Scottish Union and the Lion insurance companies, at the advanced age of 75 years.

In reply to an inquiry from the editor of the Pittsburgh *Insurance World*, Deputy Insurance Superintendent Shannon said: "I hope to be able to make my report before December 15th, but will certainly do so before January 1st."

The St. Paul board of education have decided not to carry any insurance on the school buildings of that city. The sum of \$5,000 is to be set apart each year for an insurance fund, and when it amounts to \$25,000, \$20,000 is to be used toward new school buildings. Penny wise and pound foolish.

According to the London (Ont.) *Free Press*, a compositor named Spear, advertised extensively for some weeks in the Toronto and Hamilton papers under the name of the "Industrial Protective Alliance" of Stratford, winding up his advertisements with a request to applicants to "send stamp for a reply." He realized a goodly sum from stamps and, it is said, considerable sums from parties sending him \$1 for "membership." When he found the game was up, the fellow left for Buffalo.

A receiver has been appointed for the Bay State League—a Massachusetts assessment endowment humbug. It came out in the course of the investigation before the court that the officers had bought up large numbers of certificates which were "matured" at a handsome profit to the buyers.

The "Progressive Benefit," the assessment endowment Massachusetts concern rattling around in Canada, has had its St. Louis office invaded by constables armed with writs of attachment, while its office at Newark, N. J., is also in the hands of the officers of the law, according to the Boston *Standard*.

Our New York contemporary, *Insurance*, in its issue of Dec. 11, reminds the managers of the New York *Times*, that a hundred and fifteen days had then passed since they were served with the papers in the New York Life's libel suit, and yet they have made no attempt at answer in justification of that journal's attacks.

The North British & Mercantile insurance company, according to the *Insurance Post*, will apply to Parliament for enlarged powers on a broad scale, placing it upon a footing as to kinds of business, investments, acquisition of business of other companies, and other privileges, similar to those granted other offices of late.

Boiler inspection companies will hear with interest that a fluid extract of the leaves of the eucalyptus is being tried on certain Indian railways to prevent and remove scales from boilers, and that the results, according to the Director-General's report, are satisfactory, though the experiments are not yet complete. —*Insurance World*, London.

We have received from the Insurance and Actuarial Society of Glasgow No. 3 of the third series of its transactions, which contains the inaugural address of the present president of the Society, Mr. David L. Laidlaw of the North British and Mercantile insurance company, on "The Growing Fire Hazards of Central City Districts." The address is thorough, able and timely.

Referring to the application for a receiver for the "Golden Lion," another assessment endowment concern, the *Standard* of Boston, says: "Up to October 1 only eight or ten assessments had been called. Then the calls came in 'blocks of five' and over 2,000 members lapsed. Till the assessments came. Only thirteen have been paid and thirty-three more are due before January 1."

A joint committee of representatives of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, the real estate owners and builders, the Iron Association, the New York branch of the American Institute of Architects, the Mechanics' and Traders' Exchange, and the Fire Commissioners of New York, is to meet and confer weekly with reference to the enactment of a new building law by the New York legislature.

In common with many of our fellow citizens, we have long wondered why the burden of existence was ever laid upon our contemporary of St. James street. But we suppose that even mosquitoes and June-bugs have a mission. So, doubtless, our contemporary has a mission, if for nothing else, to demonstrate how innocent language may be jumbled to mix French, bad metaphor, and small beer with the personal spleen characteristic of the vulgar fish-wife, in the absurd hope that somebody will call the effusion witty.