also recommended. Mr. Sayles, an insurance agent on the committee, thinks that property in Indianapolis is not insured for more than two-thirds its value. He says: "To prevent large fires better equipment must be provided in thickly populated districts. The outside sections need protection also. Indeed the recommendations made by Inspector Johnson of the National Board of Fire Underwriters ought to be carried out almost to the letter."

The report is on file with the Council, and improvements will probably be made. The Board of Trade building may be equipped as Fire Department headquarters.

Death's Disguises.—The King of Terrors assumes to-day such a variety of odd and fantastic shapes, that the poetical presentment of a fleshless figure, armed with a scythe, reads somewhat out of date. "The Fortnight" says: A boy sups on tinned tomatoes, and dies before the morning; a bather forgets to remove his artificial teeth, and is choked in the water; a man stepping from his bed cuts his ankle with a broken beer bottle, and bleeds to death; a woman shaking carpets jerks a tintack into her eye, and loses her sight, and so the record of accidents goes on from week to week. Every vocation in life contributes its quota, and every class of society furnishes its roll of victims; if it be a railway shunting yard to day, it is the hunting field tomorrow. Has man's safety always been beset by so many unseen dangers, or are accidents, in their number, variety and fatal character, a development of our present day complex existence? However that may be, Accident Insurance is no possible or probable good; it is a crying imperative necessity. The man who provides against the inevitable in the shape of death through old age, and neglects to safeguard himself from the thousand and one contingencies comprehended under the one word "accident," is akin to him who strains at a gnat and swallows a camel.

"An Innovation" Across the Border.—The Rand-McNally "Bankers' Magazine" for October thus refers to a practice common and almost general among Canadian bankers for the past quarter of a century:—

"James B. Forgan, president of the First National Bank of Chicago, has introduced an innovation in the book-keeping of that institution. He has established an 'unearned discount' account, in which he keeps more exact tab on the value of the assets of the bank than can be done without such a statement. The account represents the profits collected on discounted paper, but really not earned until the maturity of the loans. Among liabilities appears an item 'discounts collected but not earned,' amounting to $252,508. The item represents the profits that have been collected on notes the bank has discounted, but which will not be earned in reality till the paper has matured and the bank's money has been released by payment of the loan. Under the ordinary method of making out bank statements, this item of unearned discounts is not taken into account of at all, but is buried and lost sight of in 'loans and discounts.'"

Mr. Forgan received his business training in the Bank of Nova Scotia, of which institution he was for many years inspector. In earlier life, he was a clerk in the Bank of British North America.

Severe.—Referring to the charges brought against the directorate of the defunct Traders' Insurance Company, the New York Journal of Commerce says:

The eminently respectable gentlemen who allowed their names to be used as directors in the Traders' Insurance Company are reaping the just reward of negligence. Inasmuch as the display of these names on the company's directorate was largely instrumental in giving the company its standing, and inasmuch as the company's managers could not have perpetrated these misdeeds had the directors exercised the ordinary supervision which the public had a right to expect, the directors are certainly morally and probably legally responsible for the losses of mis-management. No sympathy will be wasted upon these gentlemen for the unfortunate notoriety which they have brought upon themselves. The use of names of high-standing on directors' boards to impose questionable schemes upon the public is an abuse of confidence that ought to be severely punished. A few more experiences of this sort, and those who possess good names will guard them more jeolously, to their own advantage as well as to that of others.

Eating his way to Fortune.—The "Boston Transcript" is responsible for the following story, of which the worm instead of the usual fish is the subject:—

A certain small Boston boy got into the habit of teasing his mother for pennies, until at last she said to him: "Now, Willie, I don't like to give you pennies; if you want money you should go to work and earn it." The boy remained thoughtful for some time. Then, within a few days, the mother perceived that Willie had plenty of pennies. She wondered a little where he got them, but did not question him. But one summer day she noticed that some sort of hullabaloo was going on in the back yard. Looking out, she saw Willie surrounded by a mob of boys, who were yelling with delight. She went down into the yard to see what was going on; and as she passed out, she saw, stuck up on the back wall of the house, this notice, quite neatly "printed" out with a pencil:—

WILLIE JONES WILL EAT.

1 small green worm for........................	1 cent
1 large green worm for.	2 cents
1 small fuzzy worm for........................	3 cents
1 large fuzzy worm for........................	5 cents
1 small green toad for........................	25 cents

And Willie was apparently doing a thriving business.