steps to mark in a suitable manner the citizens' appreciation of Von Metzke's heroism."

A controversy has arisen between Mr. Alfred Marks and Mr. Henry W. Wolff, two correspondents of the London Economist, upon the subject of the deposits in the Post Office savings banks of the United Kingdom. That is to say, as to what class of the community these deposits mainly belong. Mr. Marks had stated that "at the present time the bulk of the deposits in the Post Office Saving Bank belongs not to the thrifty poor, the proper objects of the system, but to the well-to-do;" and Mr. Wolff controverts him and calls for proof of the assertion. Hence Mr. Marks quotes in the Economist of 15th April, the statement of Mr. Austen Chamberlain in the House of Commons, when he was Postmaster-General: "It was a great mistake to assume that the money in these banks was wholly the money of poor people. He thought that, on the contrary, a great deal of it was the money of well-to-do people," who had taken advantage of the Government's rate of interest to invest, when prices of good securities were high, and to take their money back when prices were low." But here is more conclusive evidence: In his evidence before the Select Committee of the House in 1902, the secretary to the Post Office said that 9 per cent. of the depositors held about 64 per cent. of the whole. He described the depositors, who held 68 per cent. of the whole, as being of the upper and middle classes, and in number they were about 10 per cent. of the whole. The curious circumstance comes out in this controversy that while the average London deposit rate for the five years 1894 to 1898 was one per cent. per annum, the Post Office Savings Bank was giving two and a half per annum. What wonder, then, that people with money preferred to deposit it with the Post Office?

INSURANCE NOTES.

It is announced that the National Board of Fire Underwriters will hold its annual meeting on May 11th in the rooms of the New York Board of Fire Underwriters, in New York City.

The John McDougall Caledonian Iron Works Company has been awarded the contract to supply for the Toronto waterworks a 6,000,000 gallon engine. It will be of the Holly type with box girder frames, and fitted with Babcock & Wilcox boilers. It will cost $43,947.

A large stock of logs, ties, posts, and tan bark, lying at Cape Chin dump, near Wiarton, Ont., and belonging to Kastner & Co., Robert Watt, Messrs. Hunter, Neigerball, & Crawford, John P. Newman, Wiarton Lumber Co., etc., was on the 26th ult. destroyed by fire at a loss of $50,000.

One of the big fire engines made for Toronto by the Waterous Co., of Brantford, reached the city four days ago, and is at fire headquarters on Lombard street. It is a massive piece of apparatus, weighs six and one-half tons, and is fitted with rubber tires. It is fitted for a "three-horse hitch."

The municipal authorities of Vienna, Austria, have decided to re-equip their fire brigade, together with the auxiliary suburban volunteer brigades, with motor fire-fighting apparatus. The Vienna brigade has for many years been looked upon in Europe as a model for its up-to-date equipment and pronounced tendency to move with the times.

While the argument most frequently urged in favor of steam boiler insurance is that a careful inspection by experts will tend to prevent explosions, there is an unavoidable possibility against which indemnity is very desirable. The investigation into the recent disastrous boiler explosion at Brockton, Mass., has shown that the defect which caused the explosion was due to a crack under a lap-seam, which it would be practically impossible to discover under any method of inspection.—Chicago Argus.

We have received a copy of the New York Insurance Journal Life Chart for 1905, showing the condition on January 1st, 1905 of ninety regular old line life insurance companies doing business in the United States and Canada. The figures of this chart, Mr. Kempson assures us, are absolutely correct, "being compiled by one of the best known insurance mathematicians under my supervision." The price is 25 cents. The assets, liabilities and surplus, the new business and total in force; the income and disbursements of each company are given.

The 26th of April marked the fifth anniversary of the great fire in Hull and Ottawa, which, starting from a blaze in the chimney of a small frame building in Hull, grew into a devastating conflagration, which destroyed millions of dollars' worth of property and several lives. "To-day," says the Citizen, "things are changed. A great part of the city that was fire-swept is built up, but there are still to be seen numerous marks of the great conflagration. The class of buildings since erected is an improvement on what was replaced and more stringent building regulations have been enacted. The people, in the main, have recovered from the effects of the awful occurrence, but there must be fresh in their minds the memories of that day, five years ago, when Ottawa and Hull added to the great fire records of the world's history.

They are going to have fine times in France now. That is to say, if the projected taking over by the State of the life, fire, accident and old age pension associations is carried into effect. The Post Office insurance business of Great Britain has been a dead failure, and principally because it is impersonal. No one knows or cares about anyone else, but with the insurance companies, as they stand here today, as well as in France, there is a personality about the individual assurer, and the company looks after its risks. And so, too, with friendly societies. These would never have obtained their present prosperous condition but for the fact of the personal cognizance of each of the other which takes place in the various branches, lodges, etc. So, also, with benefit societies on a smaller scale. The members have to report weekly to those who know them, and who are interested alike with them in the business. But when the State takes over the lot. as is suggested in France, then we shall see the business absolutely killed by red tape, with consequent gigantic losses for the tax-payers.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

A fire, which broke out in the engine room of the Oshawa Canning Factory on the 27th ult., rapidly spread to the process room and totally destroyed both, with much valuable machinery and a large stock of goods. The loss is estimated at over $20,000, partly covered by insurance. The factory is to be rebuilt at once.

Great complaint has been heard this year regarding the quality of the maple sugar offered on the market. Many samples, at the instance of the city, were analyzed and showed that the juice of the maple was their most insignificant ingredient. It is understood that action will be taken against the offending parties under the Food Adulteration Act.

Part of the cargo of the foundered Allan line steamship "Parisian," consisting of 575 packages of nuts, almonds and walnuts, was sold by auction in Montreal. The goods were badly damaged, and realized low prices. Walnuts in 55-lb. boxes, fetched $1.70, and almonds in 25 lb. boxes, brought an average of $1.25. The sale was well attended.

The Farmers' Association of Canada having complained that the railway companies in Ontario and Quebec were in the habit of discriminating between the rates charged on grain and on flour and oatmeal, the first-named being now higher, the Board of Railway Commissioners has passed an order to the effect that the rates on grain must be reduced to the same basis as those on milled products.

A Vancouver syndicate has been organized with the object of developing the large natural oyster beds which exist at Blunden Harbor, off Queen Charlotte Sound. The oysters are said to be larger and whiter than the well-known Olympias grown artificially in the State of Washington. The syndicate has purchased some 640 acres of "tidal land." It is said to be the intention eventually to vary the natural product by the importation of "spats" from waters of the Atlantic. About 25,000