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All Communications intended for THE CHRONICLE must be in hand not later than the 10th and 25th of the month to secure insertion.

A TIMELY COMPILATION has been made by Wm. Howard Hunter, B.A., barrister-at-law, of Toronto, of the "Insurance Corporations Act of 1892" recently passed by the Ontario Legislature, with which have been incorporated notes of very many recent cases both in the Canadian and United States courts under the various sections of the Act, which, with other annotations and specimen contracts illustrative of the provisions of the new law, makes a very valuable handbook for companies and agents. The book has an introductory chapter by J. Howard Hunter, M.A., inspector of Insurance for Ontario, and is published by the Carswell Company of Toronto. We are prepared to furnish the work from the INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE office at publishers' prices, from \$5.00 to \$5.50, according to style of binding. Every company and agent doing business in Ontario should have a copy, as the changes in the law are many and important.

SOME TIME SINCE we called attention in these columns to the good-natured, free-and-easy practice too common among fire insurance adjusters of adjusting small claims at the full amount claimed, simply because they are small and seemingly unimportant. But this class of claims is very numerous, and an excess payment of fifty or a hundred dollars on each amounts to a large aggregate, and may make the difference in the year's accounts of a company between a small profit and a positive loss. We notice that the Continental insurance company of New York has been looking into the matter of careless adjustments, and as a result has issued a circular letter to all of its employees. The circular says:—"The margin of profit in the business to-day is not five per cent., and we firmly believe that more than five per cent. is being thrown away by incompetent adjusters, thus breeding fires by letting

dishonest insurers see that money can be easily collected from insurance companies. We have no money to throw away to unwarranted loss claimants, and, on the other hand, we do not desire to save money by unwarranted salvages." All honest claims should of course be fully paid, but it is worth the while of the companies to see that "money is not thrown away on unwarranted claimants."

THAT THE GROWTH of life insurance on this continent has been many times as rapid as the growth of population is a notorious fact, but the volume of the growth itself can only be understood by referring to the figures which measure the progress of the business. Taking the short period of seventeen years, from 1875 to 1891 inclusive, we find upon reference to the insurance department reports, that in Canada alone the aggregate premium income has increased from \$2,882,387 in 1875 to \$8,507,655 in 1891, the new insurance issued from \$15,074,258 to \$37,866,287, and the insurance in force from \$85,009,264 to \$261,645,627. Thus the premium receipts have trebled, the new issues increased about two and a half times, and the insurance in force considerably more than trebled. The growth of the business of the Canadian companies has been more marked naturally than that shown by the above totals for the entire business. Thus, their premiums have grown from \$707,256 in 1875 to \$4,347,543 in 1891, the new insurances from \$5,077,601 to \$21,904,302, and the insurance in force from \$21,957,296 to \$143,368,817. In the United States the premium income increased from \$83,393,656 in 1875 to \$159,710,071 in 1891, the new insurance issued and taken from \$256,131,663 to \$750,419,332, and the insurance in force from \$1,997,236,230 to \$3,861,584,383. In both countries combined the increase in premiums since 1875 has been \$81,941,683, new insurances issued and taken \$517,079,698, and insurance in force \$2,040,984,516.

IT IS AN UNDOUBTED FACT, that for the past dozen years and more, and especially during the past three or four years, not only has better building construction and better fire protective appliances been urged persistently by the press, but decided improvements in these respects have actually been made. Fire-extinguishing appliances generally, sprinklers in