

The medico-actuarial investigation now being made under the auspices of the Actuarial Society of America, and in which most of the life companies of the United States are co-operating is proceeding actively, but owing to the immense amount of work involved a full report of the committee's work, it is stated, is unlikely to be made for several months, though preliminary statistics may be given out at an early date.

• • • • •

A cable to the New York Journal of Commerce says:—The National Provincial Insurance Corporation, Ltd., of London, has gone into the hands of a receiver in bankruptcy. It wrote £207,000 in premiums last year on fire, burglary and general accident business. For about a year it has been transacting a reckless business and its failure is not a great surprise. The paid-up capital was £40,303 and the general funds as of January 1, 1911, were £111,316.

• • • • •

The British Fire Prevention Committee have issued a report on the fire preventive work undertaken during the Coronation celebration in London. A systematic effort was made by the executive to reduce the risk of fire by showing the public fire dangers to be avoided, and by communicating with the many occupiers of premises on the processional route with the view of indicating to them the manner in which certain fire risks due to their decorations, illuminations, etc., could be reduced. The results of the precautionary measures were that there was only one fire on the processional route when cleared for the King and only eleven other fires attributable to the celebrations during June 22nd and 23rd.

• • • • •

An important matter referred to at the recent Convention of Accident Underwriters at Portsmouth, was by Hon. Arthur I. Vorys, that there should be a general federation of insurance associations working in the common interest. Mr. Stone, speaking on this subject, said that the Board of Casualty and Surety Underwriters had advised such an organization two years ago, and had proposed that the leading associations in each branch of the insurance business appoint committees to confer, with the idea of forming such a general organization, the same not for the purpose of holding conventions at loss of time and at much expense, but through which the insurance business of the country might, on important occasions, make known its position and bring to bear its power in its own defence.

• • • • •

Following the recent fires at Lakeside and Strathmore, a meeting of the residents of the district called by Mayor McBride, of Pointe Claire, was held at the Chateau St. Louis, Valois. Mr. McBride suggested that the residents of the lake-shore contribute to the purchase of a \$1,500 fire engine, or purchase a \$6,000 motor-driven chemical engine of the type likely to be purchased by the city of Westmount. The first would cost about \$35 a year in interest, and the second about \$350. He considered that the expenditure would be justified

by the safety obtained. With the steam fire engine, the horses now owned by Pointe Claire might be used or the engine might be hauled by a motor car. Although more expensive, the motor-driven chemical fire engine would be the more suitable fire-fighting apparatus for the lake-shore; it would be able to reach any point in its district within a few minutes and carry with it eighty gallons of chemical, several hundred feet of hose and a dozen men. With such a piece of apparatus no fire would be able to get outside the house or perhaps the room in which it started.

• • • • •

New York's fire loss, which last year was \$8,500,000, will be reduced from 35 to 50 per cent., Fire Commissioner Johnson believes, through the Bureau of Fire Prevention, created by the Hoey bill, which has passed the Legislature and is approved by Mayor Gaynor. After the bill becomes a law, Commissioner Johnson will organize the bureau on a temporary basis until funds have been appropriated by the Board of Estimate to carry out the provisions of the law, which was enacted as a result of the disaster in Washington place, where nearly 150 lives were lost. Firemen of the uniformed force will be detailed for duty as inspectors in the Bureau for Fire Protection, and their duties will include the annual inspection of the 300,000 buildings in New York city, exclusive of tenements. The Hoey bill authorizes the Commissioner not only to issue orders to property owners to keep their buildings in such shape as will reduce the chances of fire, but also makes it possible for the Commissioner to enforce these orders by giving him the power to compel owners, who ignore the Fire Department orders, to vacate their buildings.

• • • • •

The industrial accident and health insurance business is conducted almost entirely on the profit-sharing or contingent commission basis, in which the agent's remuneration depends to a considerable degree on keeping the loss payments on his business down. There are two ways of accomplishing this. One is by writing carefully selected business, or insuring in the main only such people as would much rather avoid an accident than receive insurance payments on account of one. The other is to strive for a large volume of business, good and bad, and take advantage of all the legal technicalities in the adjustment of resulting claims. Correctly administered according to the first method, the profit-sharing plan is without doubt the best plan for conducting the business of industrial accident and health insurance that has been put forward to date. It is capable of abuse, but so is every other known plan of business.—Weekly Underwriter.

• • • • •

Some very interesting facts in regard to fire insurance in Berlin are contained in a report drawn up by the United States Vice-Consul-General there. Mr. Cauldwell states that real or immovable property in Berlin is insured in the compulsory municipal Fire Insurance Association, and he says that the total fire losses paid by the Association in each