

HINC ILLÆ LACHRYMÆ.—Hor.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITY TREASURER.

THE BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS.

SIR,—I doubt not you are quite unaware that a notice was, on the 22nd inst., posted up in all the fire insurance offices in this city, which reads as follows:—

“NOTICE TO BROKERS.

“On and after Monday, the 12th May next, no business will be “received from a broker, excepting he shall have obtained a license “from the Canadian Fire Underwriters’ Association.”

“Applications for such license to be made at the secretary’s office, 10 Exchange Court, Hospital street, after the 24 inst.”

“Montreal, 18th April, 1884.”

Now, as one deeply interested in fire insurance, I take the liberty of asking you by what *authority* the same board of “Canadian Fire Underwriters” arrogate unto themselves to LICENSE a broker, or to say who shall and who shall not do an insurance business in Montreal; are the board of “Canadian Fire Underwriters” a *legally constituted* association (by “*legally constituted* I mean *incorporated*”), permitted by Act of Parliament to assume and take with themselves the power—which I presume *alone* belongs to the city—to *license* a broker. If not, why are they permitted to do it? What says the city attorney to this arrogance of the civic rights and privileges? It seems to me the fire underwriters, by so doing, are taking a step by which each and every individual member thereof is laying himself open to an action at law by the city when they presume to undertake to LICENSE those whom they have no more right to “license” than the man in the moon. Why don’t they stick to their *legitimate* business and leave the civic authority and *sole rights* alone?—*Herald*.

Yours respectfully,
AN INSURANCE MAN.

Montreal, April 24, 1884.

Referring to above “open letter” we wish it to be understood that we are not entering into competition with “Grip” or any other comic paper, though our readers might naturally suppose so, from the publication of what appears a joke equal to the description of the destruction by fire of our Ice Palace in the *Detroit Free Press*. Yet in making this statement we can scarcely treat seriously such a tissue of balderdash as that bearing the signature of “An Insurance Man.”

To begin with, we must take entire exception to the signature itself, venturing to assert, without fear of contradiction from those capable of judging, that no “insurance man” could ever have penned an epistle which, as a burlesque even, is not fit for a ten cent show, having neither wit, rhyme, nor sense. However, in order to distinguish him by a title he “arrogates” to himself, “An Insurance Man” addresses his letter to the City Treasurer, doubtless under the impression that the latter has the power to dictate to the Fire Insurance Companies through whom they shall transact their business, for unless this is meant by the tirade against the Underwriters’ Association, in which italics are freely used to illustrate bombastic nonsense, we fail to see any point whatever in the “open letter.” Did it ever occur to “An Insurance Man” that the Insurance Offices have quite as much “authority” to agree among themselves as to the method of transacting their business as belongs to “An Insurance Man” or others to constitute themselves brokers without any license at all? Does “An Insurance Man” deny the right of the Companies to “arrogate” to themselves the establishment of rates on the various classes of risks, or to say which risks they shall accept or decline? Did it never strike “An Insurance Man” that throughout his letter the charge of “arrogance” (we “thank thee for teaching us that word”) may be justly laid at his own door? And, with respect to the concluding words of his very ridiculous composition, does not “An Insurance Man” see that the reply “tu quoque” would be very aptly applied to him, for, unless we are very much mistaken, he is some employee

which the new rules very wisely debar from acting longer as a broker, to the detriment of the Insurance business? Hinc illæ lachrymæ,” we say. Let him “stick to his legitimate business,” and not make himself so utterly absurd by rushing into print to discuss a subject concerning the first principles of which he has not the faintest possible conception.

We do not think we need say more, having wasted sufficient space in noticing a miserable attempt to overthrow a much-needed reform, an attempt so contemptible that it will only recoil on him who brought it forth.

Perhaps some of the uninitiated may have been deceived by “An Insurance Man’s” high-sounding phrases, much as children run after a drum, which “for the most part is capable of nothing but inexplicable dumb show and noise,” but those who give the matter a moment’s thought will agree with the old Latin maxims that “ex nihilo nihil fit.”

LIVE STOCK INSURANCE.

In our last issue we referred to the formation of a company for the transaction of this species of insurance in the Dominion.

A new company has recently been organized in London called the Imperial. The following is an abstract of the tariff of rates:—

For carriage and saddle horses and those employed in agriculture upon farms of the owners, with well constructed and ventilated stables, one-fourth of one per cent. per annum.

Physicians’ horses, or those attached to light vehicles, farm, and military horses, five per cent.

Horses in use by miners, brewers, butchers, hay dealers and undertakers, mares and young horses, from six to three years of age, six and a half per cent.

Mail-route teams or livery horses, in use by travelling agents, seven and a half per cent.

Draft horses, or employed in hauling wood or coal, or builders’, carriers’, and contractors’, etc., stallions, when singly insured, eight and three-quarters per cent.

Race horses, hunters, tramway or canal horses, omnibus horses, hack horses, and city railways, ten per cent.

All horses from ten to eleven years of age can be insured at the rates of the following classes: Horses over twelve years of age are generally uninsurable. The highest amount covered is £50, or \$250, upon farm or business horses; or £100 (\$500) on carriage and saddle horses. Special policies are written upon stallions, according to their pedigree.

The company also insures against accidental deaths, and charges one-third of the foregoing premiums only, except in the last class named, where the rate is reduced to one-half only. In such cases no examination is necessary; the production of a veterinary’s certificate as to the horse’s condition and the amount of the policy covers all risks wherever they may occur.

They issue transport policies upon animals, etc., in case of death by accident upon railways; also floating policies at reduced rates upon the entire stock of any farm. For cattle the premiums range from three and three-quarters to seven and a half per cent. The first class includes those not over eighteen months of age, and not less than twelve of them. The second class includes horned animals intended for draft purposes, varying in age from six to eighteen months. The third class embraces small farms, and the fourth class includes milch cows located near large cities (London excepted), and exhibition animals. Upon sheep and hogs the annual premiums are from five to seven and a half per cent.

All losses are adjusted within eight days, at a discount of two and a half per cent., or paid at the end of thirty days without discount. By special agreement, the risk of contagious diseases can be covered. The capital of this company is £50,000, or \$250,000.