

Notes and Items.

Mr. Josiah Martin, F.I.A., who retired as actuary of the British Empire Life on a pension in 1886, after thirty-six years of service, died on Jan. 14 last, aged 76 years.

Very practical.—"I will die for you," he exclaimed, passionately. "Will you be my wife?" "Get your life insured before you die, and I guess it's a go," said she.—*Somerville Journal*.

The Dominion Parliament has been petitioned for an act authorizing the organization of the "Millers' Mutual Fire Ins. Co.," to transact business anywhere in Canada and to be located at Hamilton.

A movement is on foot in Boston to organize a mutual company for the exclusive insurance of electric light plants throughout the country. The prospect that the company will be formed is said to be good.

The Travelers Ins. Co. wrote over a million dollars of new insurance in its life department during January last, and made a gain of more than twenty-five thousand dollars in premiums in its accident department—a record unequalled in its previous history.

A jubilee testimonial was presented to Mr. James Meikle, the actuary of the Scottish Provident Institution of Edinburgh, on the 8th ult., to signalize the completion of fifty years service for the company and in the interests of life assurance in Scotland.

Anti-rebate.—The Life Insurance Association of agents and managers in New York has appointed a committee of five to employ an attorney for the prosecution of violations of the anti-rebate law. Expenses are to be paid from funds subscribed by the members.

The British Empire Mutual Life has appointed Mr. Howard James Rothery, its actuary for the three past years, "chief officer" of the company, with the title of actuary and secretary. Mr. Henry Capern, for many years chief clerk, has also been promoted to the position of assistant secretary.

Important Correction.—We find that we were misinformed about the amount for which "a modest claimant" on St. James street settled a loss for which he claimed "\$500 or nothing, sir!" We stated the amount to have been \$56 in our last issue. It should have been \$31!

There was an error in the figures furnished us for the Fire Insurance Table of Canadian business by the Glasgow and London Ins. Co., which appeared in our last issue. The correct figures are: gross premiums, \$351,821; net premiums, \$311,624; net losses, \$204,852; ratio of losses to premiums, 65.73.

The position of Canadian manager for the London Assurance Corporation, made vacant by the resignation of Manager Foster, has not, at this writing, been actually filled. There has been no lack of applicants, however, affording an excellent opportunity for a good selection.

The supreme treasurer of the "Order of Tonty," Geo. W. Wright, has been convicted in Philadelphia, and sentenced to the penitentiary for four years and nine months, for appropriating over \$38,000 of the funds of the Order to his own use. The concern was an alleged insurance and endowment association.

According to the Spectator of London, the total premiums of the Lion Fire Ins. Co., for 1889, were \$894,308, and the losses \$781,440. The total income was \$971,561. The ratio of losses to premiums was 77.3, against 63.1 for 1888. The expense of management was 35.2, against 33.3 for 1888.

Suit has been commenced against the Armstrong Mutual companies by Bamberger, Bloom & Co., of Louisville, Ky., for \$92,000, claim for loss in their great fire. All the other companies promptly paid some weeks ago. Armstrong has also been prosecuted by the firm for libel, with damages laid at \$100,000.

The United States Guarantee Co., recently organized in New York, with Mr. Edward Rawlings of this city as president, has a capital of \$200,000 in 2,000 shares, of which a majority are held by the Guarantee Company of North America, and the balance mainly by prominent capitalists of New York, Boston and Chicago.

The burning of the Royal Palace of the King of Belgium recently, at Laeken, resulted in the loss of the finest geographical library in the world, consisting of 7,000 volumes, together with a large collection of maps, and 11,000 photographs taken in various parts of the world, many of them showing the recently explored portions of central Africa.

The coroner's jury in the case of Mr. Ditman, the Philadelphia banker found dead in the Schuylkill river on Jan. 26th, have brought in a verdict of accidental death by drowning. Suicide was surmised, and as the deceased carried \$30,000 of accident insurance and policies for considerable amounts in two or three life companies, the above verdict assumes importance.

The solution of the difficulty between Insurance Commissioner Merrill of Massachusetts and the New York Life, over the much talked of "ordinary life distribution policy" of the latter, has been solved by the withdrawal of the company from that State, after giving the commissioner an opportunity of testing the matter in the courts, which he however failed to improve.

The Industrial insurance companies of Great Britain number eleven, and their aggregate premium income for the year last reported was \$22,978,475. Of this amount the Prudential of London collected \$16,281,730. The three companies next largest in premium collections are: the Refuge, \$2,485,995; the Pearl, \$1,227,410; the British Workmen's, \$1,037,875.

Mrs. H. L. Aldrich, now proprietor of the *Western Insurance Review* of St. Louis, favored us with a call last week while in Montreal in the interest of that excellent journal. Since her husband's death this bright and plucky woman has conducted the business affairs of the *Review* with a success which she richly deserves, and which we trust may for a long time continue.

From advance sheets of the California insurance commissioner's report for 1889, we find the fire insurance business to have been as follows:

	Premiums.	Losses Paid.	Ratio.
California companies.....	\$1,593,702	\$613,086	38.5
Co.'s of other States.....	2,107,713	940,140	44.1
Foreign companies.....	2,457,340	1,015,776	41.4

According to the figures of the *Coast Review*, the business of the entire Pacific Coast was as follows:

	Premiums.	Losses Paid.	Ratio.
California companies.....	\$2,363,672	\$1,540,922	65.1
Co.'s of other States.....	3,332,723	2,963,559	88.9
Foreign companies.....	3,919,671	3,460,667	88.3