

STATE INSURANCE.

Where and how the Government Engage in the Business.

Various attempts have been made in different European countries to establish a system of state or municipal fire insurance, and the most successful examples are to be found in that nursery of European democracy, Switzerland, says a writer in the Contemporary Review. In Zurich and several other cantons fire insurance is made a part of cantonal government. One of the best laws on the subject is in operation in Basel-Stadt, one of the smallest of Swiss cantons, containing only 73,000 people—less than the population of a small London local government district. The town of Basel has a population of 60,000, so that the community is largely an urban one. The fire insurance law is administered by the General Obligatory Mutual Fire Insurance Obligation, operating under the department of finance. The law is not only compulsory, but the system is a monopoly, as buildings insured by it are not allowed to carry additional insurance. Several classes of buildings are excluded from the operation of the law, including churches, which belong to the state; buildings of less value than 300 francs situated some distance from towns or villages, as they perhaps run little or no risk, and buildings which are of too hazardous a nature, such as theaters and powder mills.

A valuation commission, appointed by the government council, values the buildings in presence of the owner or his agents. The value is determined by the amount which at the time of valuation the buildings in their then existing construction would cost for material and labor, with deductions for age, poor state of repairs, etc. Local advantages or site value do not influence the valuation, and movable objects, such as machines or parts of machinery, are excluded. Buildings are divided into four classes, according to the nature of the risk, and the premiums are graduated accordingly. Dwelling houses and all buildings not used for manufacturing purposes pay a premium of 50 centimes per 1,000 francs value, or 5 pence per 240. Ordinary manufacturing and workshop pay 80 centimes per 1,000 francs. Places of greater hazard, such as breweries, distilleries, gas works, tobacco factories, pay 1 franc 20 centimes per 1,000 francs, while class four, including chemical factories, dyeing works and a few more places where the risk is still greater, pay at the rate of 1 franc 80 centimes. Where the hazard is exceptional, and in the case of buildings partly constructed of wood, an addition, which must not exceed 5 francs on each 1,000 francs, is made.

A Well and Weather Prophet in One. There is a well in Beale county, S. D., which as a weather prophet surpasses some of the modern professionals. For a day or two previous to a storm or high wind the water assumes an inky blue and gives off a very faint sulphurous odor. If a little is put into a glass and held toward the light, no foreign substance can be detected, and the liquid appears clear, but in larger quantities the peculiar tint is very marked. Just before the storm subsides the water resumes its natural crystal clearness, and the color disappears. The indications described by a storm of some kind, more especially a high wind, that the owner has come to regard his well as an excellent indicator of weather.

The well is a covered one and 60 feet deep, with 30 feet of water, lifted by an iron pump. It would hardly seem probable that the water at that depth would be affected by the atmosphere two days before the storm developed. It is not possible that the conditions which give rise to storms have their origin in the earth itself. Perhaps there is a key to the vexed problem of the winds—their course, velocity, direction, etc. Has the presence of the iron pump anything to do with the appearance of the water? If so, why is it apparent only before a storm? Other wells in that vicinity show a similar tendency, but in a less marked degree. In some the water takes on a yellowish cast, but with no perceptible odor.—Minneapolis Journal.

A Remarkable Case. "Here's a sensational elopement story that is rather remarkable," he said, looking up from his newspaper.

"Does it fall to say that the girl is beautiful?" he asked.

"No. It says that she is 'entrancingly lovely,'" he replied.

"Then what is the remarkable about it?" she inquired.

"It falls to say that she moved in either an exclusive set or the highest circles of society."—Chicago Post.

His Merited Punishment. "I cured Giddington of talking to me about his smart little boy."

"How did you do it?"

"I told him all about the 11 summers' experience I have had with hay fever."—Chicago Record.

A Newfoundland named Oscar, belonging to myself had often listened with much interest to stories of rescue of drowning persons by dogs. I happen to possess an engraving of Landseer's "Member of the Humane Society." Oscar would contemplate it for hours and study the pose in the mirror. One day two little children were playing alone on St. Andrew's pier, and I was sketching the ruins at a short distance, Oscar running about on the pier. I happened to look up and saw Oscar as if involuntarily, but quite deliberately, back one of the children (Johnny Chisholm by name) into the water, which is there very deep. The animal then gave three loud howls to attract attention (he had been taught to give "three cheers for Mr. Gladstone"), jumped into the water, rescued the child and carried him, "quite safe, but very wet," to the local photographer's, obviously that the deed might be commemorated by art. Nobody saw the beginning of this tragedy except myself.

Oscar, when brought home, deliberately rapped out "Humane Society" with his tail on the floor; but, much as I appreciated his intelligence, I could not, in common honesty, give him a testimonial. This proved on his mind. He accompanied a party to the top of St. Rulo's tower and deliberately leaped from the top, being dressed to pieces at the feet of an eagle, whose works he had often, but unsuccessfully, entreated to review in an unfavorable sense. His plan was to bring the book, lay it at my feet and return with the carving knife in his mouth.—Andrew Lang in Longman's Magazine.

Back Note Paper. The pine knots of notes printed by the Bank of England are all on thin, white, crisp paper. The ink used is black—a hard, dry preparation, said to be made from naphtha smoke.

A peculiarity of the English notes is that the engraving is simple and old fashioned, in contrast to the notes of other countries, which are most elaborately engraved, by complicated machinery, the designs being difficult of imitation by hand, and the lathe and ruling engines being so costly as to discourage counterfeiters.

The English paper is made by a private concern, as is that in use in the United States, the pulp of the latter being a mixture of linen, cotton and silk, the silk threads coming into prominence after the printing.

The French bank note paper is of similar texture, hair being used with the pulp instead of silk threads. Over 50,000 notes are issued by the Bank of England daily of an average value of £20.—New York Journal.

Karl's Clover Root Tea is a sure cure for headache and nervous diseases. Nothing relieves so quickly. For sale by the Delta Drug Store.

When we consider that the intestines are about five times as long as the body, we can realize the intense suffering experienced when they become inflamed. DeWitt's Colic & Cholera Cure subdues inflammation at once and completely removes the difficulty. W. E. Brock.

More Dangerous Now. "What are you reading, Richard?" asked Mrs. Mockton.

"I happened to see something about Ajax."

"The gentleman who defied the lightning?"

"Yes, I suppose it was safe enough in those days. But if Ajax had had to ride on a trolley car and pay the bills of the man who fixes the fan and the lightning apparatus, I'm willing to wager a good deal that he would have been more careful about how he got familiar with electricity."—Washington Star.

An excellent cologne may be made with half an ounce of oil of bergamot, quarter of an ounce of oil of orange, half an ounce of oil of English lavender, half a dram of neroli and one quart of alcohol. Shake the bottle several times a day for four or five days.

Pass the good word along the line. Piles can be quickly cured without an operation by simply applying DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve. W. E. Brock.

Catarh cured, health and sweet breath secured, by Shiloh's Catarh Remedy, Price, 50c. Nasal Injector free. For sale by the Delta Drug Store.

Inventions that have been patented in the United States for not more than one year may also be patented in Canada. A patent will be refused in Canada if the United States patent is more than one year old.

The vice chamberlain of her majesty's household follows the master of the horse and is followed by secretaries of state who are not of the degree of baron.

We go to the grave of a friend, saying, "A man is dead," but angels throng about him, saying, "A man is born."—Beecher.

Small in size, but great in results DeWitt's Little Early Risers act gently but thoroughly, curing indigestion, dyspepsia, and constipation. Small pill, safe pill, best pill. W. E. Brock.

The great pelican often has a wing spread of 15 feet. The bird itself sometimes exceeds 25 pounds in weight.

A "throwing sick," "throwing board" or "spenser thrower," as it is sometimes called, is a contrivance for casting a javelin or harpoon, which is employed by various savage races, such as the Australians, some South American tribes and especially by the Eskimos, among whom its use is almost universal.

Roughly speaking, it is a narrow grooved board a foot or so long, with one end cut into a handle and the other provided with a stud or spur for the butt of the spear to rest against. It is used thus: Grasping the handle as he would a sword, the man fits the shaft of the spear into the groove, with the butt resting against the stud, steady the spear with the finger. Then, extending his arm and bending back his hand till the spear lies horizontal, he aims for a quick forward jerk of the stick. In this way I have seen the Eskimo boys casting their forked javelins at about a 45 degree angle. Popular Science Monthly.

Delicate Eating. Bobbie—Papa, what is "delicate?"

Mr. Perry—It means delicate eating, such as limburger, pickled herring and the like.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A Winner. "I am told that Phillips keeps a fast horse."

"It is just the other way. The horse keeps him."—Detroit Free Press.

TWO GREAT EUROPEAN BANDS.

These of the Grenadier Guards and of the Garde Republicaine.

The two leading bands of Europe today, which met in honorable rivalry at the French exhibition in London during the summer and fall of 1890, are those of the Grenadier guards of England, conducted by the world famous bandmaster, the Hon. Lieutenant Dan Godfrey, and the Garde Republicaine of France, conducted by M. Wettge. Both are composed of picked men, artists who have served a long apprenticeship in other bands previous to being honored and gratified by being called to join these. And when upon state occasions, such as the trooping of the colors on the queen's birthday, the guards' bands of the Grenadier, Coldstream and Scots Fusiliers are massed together for combined effort, or the full complement of the Garde Republicaine is pouring forth glorious melody under the trees of Paris' great parks and gardens, one can fully understand how it comes to pass that their fame has extended so widely.

Our American orchestra conducted by Mr. Sousa is avowedly an imitation of the great French band. Lieutenant Godfrey brought his band to the grand international musical festival held in Boston during the year 1872. This was the first time an English soldier had appeared in uniform in America since the days of 1812-16. Questions were asked in parliament as to the advisability of the step, and a special act by that august body was necessary to enable the band to leave the country. Belonging, as it does, to the personal establishment of the sovereign, Victoria could have done us no greater honor than to send to us, clad in beaumont and resplendent scarlet and gold, her favorite musicians.

Before dwelling on the Godfreys and the guards, two names inseparably associated in the history of military music, allow me to quote from a Boston paper for June 19, 1872, concerning this well remembered visit to our shores:

"The greatest sensation of the day and of the occasion was reserved, however, for the Grenadier guards' band—a sensation which had a most substantial basis in sound musical judgment. The appearance of the band in its really splendid and elegant uniform was quite enough of itself to fire the popular heart and to account, with the added consideration of the band's performance, for the feeling for its welcome. But long before it had finished its opening overture it was felt that no such military band had ever been heard in the United States."

I forbear to quote more. Doubtless the memorable scene when Mr. Dan Godfrey signaled his men to play "The Star Spangled Banner" still lives in the recollection of Bostonians who were fortunate enough to be present. It literally beggared description. The popular opinion of thousands in the audience was sustained by the rarest set of the foreign orchestra, and amid a hurricane of applause Mr. Godfrey's band accomplished more for the cementing of good feeling between two great nations than many a tedious period of diplomacy has done. The palm of supremacy was unanimously awarded to the English band. "It was the triumph of my life," said Mr. Godfrey to me this summer, "and I often play your national hymn at my all fresco concerts during the season. My remembrance of America is of the kindest nature."—Chautauquan.

Consumption can be cured by the use of Shiloh's Cure. This great Cough Cure is the only known remedy for that terrible disease. For sale by the Delta Drug Store.

Ell Hill, Lumber City, Pa., writes, "I have been suffering from Piles for twenty-five years and thought my case was incurable. DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve was recommended to me as a pile cure, so I bought a box and it performed a permanent cure." This is only one of thousands of similar cases. Eczema, sores and skin diseases yield quickly when it is used. W. E. Brock.

LONDON'S FLOWER SUPPLY.

The Wealth of Plants That Passes Through Covent Garden Market.

"How many flowers this morning?"

"Twenty tons."

This seems a large order for cut flowers, but it represents the quantity sent off by one steamer during the season from the docks of Scilly. At the busiest time this will be repeated three times a week for weeks in succession, and occasionally 30 tons have been sent at one time.

The question who was the first exporter from Scilly to Covent Garden is difficult to answer satisfactorily, but the trade has assumed proportions which its originator could not have dreamed of. When he looked around his garden and picked a few handfuls of flowers with the intention of sending them to market as an experiment, he little thought that within 20 years the flower trade would be the most prosperous trade which had ever been known in Scilly.

Now every farmer is a grower of flowers—which as a rule means narcissi and daffodils—on a large scale, and almost every individual household, if he can get a garden, is in Scilly every available piece of ground is used as a garden, and if from any cause one is given up a number of would-be tenants apply to the lord proprietor for it. Sometimes a piece of a farm may be divided up into gardens, and those who are fortunate enough to get a portion immediately set to work and plant hedges of veronica, eschallonia or euonymus, or put up wooden fences at stated distances apart to make shelter for the flowers that are to come.

In Scilly it would be hopeless for any one to think of growing flowers unless he had first provided shelter for them, for every wind sweeps the islands, and protection from storms is absolutely necessary. On the other hand—and this no doubt is the se-

cret of the success with which the flowers are grown there—the equality of the temperature is remarkable, severe frost being almost unknown. The flower gardens divided into these squares by the hedges have a quaint and pleasing appearance. As a rule, each square patch is devoted to one variety of flower, though most of the larger growers have many squares of each sort, especially of the older kinds, such as Scilly white, soleil d'or, ornatus, etc.

The flower season begins about Christmas, when a few small consignments find their way into the markets and are usually sold at good prices, especially if the French flowers have not yet made an appearance. From this time up to the end of May flowers in larger or smaller quantities are sent by every steamer, the busiest time being, as a rule, during March and April. Besides the narcissi and daffodils, marguerites, gladioli, arum lilies, the scarlet anemone fulgens, white single stocks and wallflowers are grown in large quantities. The white and yellow marguerite bushes attain dimensions which would astonish people who grow them in pots under glass.—St. James Budget.

Turkey's Way of Raising Revenue.

The land in all Turkey and her dependencies belongs to the reigning sultan, and is only occupied at his will. It is divided among those who wish to cultivate it at a nominal rental of one-fifth of the produce, which goes directly to the crown. Three-fifths more are taken from the lessee on other pretexts, all for the maintenance of the government, the pasha in each district having the authority to lease the ground and collect the taxes, which may be in kind or money.

If crops are short, they take four-fifths of all the man has in animals and even household utensils, sometimes all his possessions, to make up the deficiency which Providence has withheld.

Everything that can produce, be it a tree, beast, fowl, worm or the labor of a man and his family, is subject to the four-fifths tax.

Those who toil at any labor or trade other than agriculture are taxed also pro rata according to their wages and must pay or go to prison.—Pearson's Weekly.

The Mirrored Barber Pole.

In front of an east side barber shop stands a big, handsome barber pole, set in which, at about the height of a man's face, is a series of small mirrors surrounding the pole like a band of panels. The mirrors may have been set in the pole only to add to its ornamentation, but it seems as though they might serve also to remind the passerby who chanced to look in them that he needed a shave and that this was the place to get it.—New York Sun.

Qualified.

Baron—You have called to secure the position of porter?

Applicant—Yes, sir.

Baron—Was there not some one in the anteroom as you came in?

Applicant—There was, sir. There was a man with a bill against you, Herr Baron, but I threw him out.—Fliegende Blätter.

We are anxious to do a little good in this world and can think of no pleasanter or better way to do it than by recommending One Minute Cough Cure as a preventive of pneumonia, consumption and other serious lung troubles that follow neglected colds. W. E. Brock.

I was nervous, tired, irritable and cross. Karl's Clover Root Tea has made me well and happy. Mrs. E. B. Worden. For sale by the Delta Drug Store.

"My baby had croup and was saved by Shiloh's Cure," writes Mrs. J. B. Martin, of Huntsville, Ala. For sale by the Delta Drug Store.

It is a well established fact that the American people are swindled and humbugged more than any other people on earth, and it is not for want of intelligence or shrewdness, but simply because they do not stop to think. For instance a lady goes to her grocer, who rather than to miss making a sale, offers her an inferior goods instead of the kind she asks for. He boldly asserts "It's just as good," when if he told the customer the truth he would say, "I know Hoe Cake Soap and Red Seal Lye are pure goods and full weight, and for that reason cost more, but I sell the poorer qualities because there is more profit to be made." Hoe Cake Soap contains ingredients not found in any other soap. Try it.

Pure blood means good health. DeWitt's Sarsaparilla purifies the blood, cures Eruptions, Eczema, Scrofula, and all diseases arising from impure blood. W. E. Brock.

A Dinner Given by the late Prince Raitor there were a hundred courses. The chiefs of the prince were solemnly chosen after the greatest deliberation and cross examination. On one special occasion it was announced that he was in need of a cook, and ten of the best chefs duly presented themselves for the coveted post. They were informed by the prince that each must serve a dinner of his own choice and cooking, consisting of ten courses, to be served the same evening to a jury of the best gastronomes in Paris, who would eat of each different dish and then pass judgment. This programme was carried out and the palm awarded to a Frenchman who had been chef for many years to the Baron Haussmann. A trip to Marseilles by the whole of the jury was the sequel to this famous dinner of 100 courses.—London Tit-Bits.

More Delicacies. Jack Kollspring—Have you taken to the new style ladies' saws—saw-ers, Miss Ware?

Della Ware (properly shocked)—We ladies pronounce them "saw-ers," Mr. Kollspring.—Buffalo Times.

CASTORIA

for Infants and Children.

THIRTY years' observation of Castoria with the palmings of millions of persons, permit us to speak of it without boasting. It is unquestionably the best remedy for Infants and Children the world has ever known. It is harmless. Children like it. It gives them health. It will save their lives. In it Mothers have something which is absolutely safe and practically perfect as a child's medicine.

Castoria destroys Worms.
Castoria allays Feverishness.
Castoria prevents vomiting Sour Curd.
Castoria cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic.
Castoria relieves Teething Troubles.
Castoria cures Constipation and Flatulency.
Castoria neutralizes the effects of carbonic acid gas or poisonous matters.
Castoria does not contain morphine, opium, or other narcotic property.
Castoria assimilates the food, regulates the stomach and bowels, giving healthy and natural sleep.
Castoria is put up in amber bottles only. It is not sold in bulk.
Don't allow any one to sell you anything else on the plea or promise that it is "just as good" and "will answer every purpose."

See that you get C-A-S-T-O-R-I-A.

The fac-simile signature of J. C. Hathorn is on every wrapper.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

It sometimes happens that statutory claims respect more for the sentiment which prompted its production than for its artistic qualities. Very few cities lack in tributes to heroism which are touching though not convincing evidences of the sculptor's skill. It was at such a specimen that a couple paused to gaze.

"It looks kind o' queer," was her comment.

"I dunno much about such things, but the proportions seem kinder unusual," said he.

"Hush!" she exclaimed. "We're showing our ignorance. It's the latest thing in art. If we have poster pictures, it stands to reason that there should be poster statues too."—Washington Star.

The German patent office makes a careful examination of all applications for patents and rejects such as appear to lack novelty or have been introduced to public use or placed on sale before a patent was applied for.

The oldest sons of viscounts follow those secretaries of state who are not of noble birth and are themselves followed by the younger sons of earls.

Most birds of prey are provided with mottled plumage and are called by the eye perfectly clean and bright.

Judge thyself with a judgment of sincerity, and thou wilt judge others with a judgment of charity.—Mason.

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RAILWAY TIME TABLE.

EAST AND SOUTH

THE SHASTA ROUTE

SOUTHERN PAC. CO.

Express Trains Leave Portland Daily

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