

he is acting wisely in the interest of the journal, and for the benefit of its supporters and readers.

The transfer is a *bona fide* and an absolute one; and in bespeaking your assistance, your cordial support, and your *practical* help, during coming years, we, while tendering our thanks for past favors, will confidently express the belief that for all favors you may be pleased to confer, you will be doubly repaid through the good offices of INSURANCE SOCIETY.

While any who may be inclined to swerve from the path of strict integrity and fair-dealing, though they no longer

Contra stimulum calcas,

yet they will have to deal with a smith whose watchword is

Limæ labor et mora.

(The Labor and the Patience of the File.)

THE CANADIAN INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

We have on several occasions found fault with the workings of our Canadian Insurance department in its details, and will probably do so again in the future. We consider it by no means perfect, and, for that matter, very few things are. We think that, in regard to co-operatives and some other matters, it has not taken a decided enough stand. At the same time we wish to bear emphatic testimony that we consider the department to be the best managed that we know of.

Mr. J. B. Cherriman, the Superintendent, is a man who enjoys the respect and confidence not only of all the companies placed under his supervision but of the Canadian Insurance world as a whole. He is a thorough gentleman and his dealings with the officers of the different companies have been uniformly courteous and considerate. His ability is admitted, and, above all, his honor and impartiality are above suspicion. We make these remarks on account of some statements which have appeared in a New York contemporary. We are sure that if the Editor of that paper but knew Mr. Cherriman better, he would be among the last to reflect on him in any way. He is worthy of and enjoys the full confidence of the companies, and, if matters continue as at present, it will be, for many reasons, an unfortunate day for them when his connection with the department ceases. We hope that day may be far distant.

THE CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

The Confederation Life has lately issued a prospectus of a new kind of policy now issued by it, called the "Accumulated Dividend Plan." There does not seem to be anything particularly new in it, for, from a rather hurried glance through it, it seems to be practically almost the same as the "Deferred profit" plan of some English companies, and the "Semi-Tontine" of American companies. The plan, however, is an attractive one, and we have no doubt will add to the business of the Company. It is a desirable form of assurance, for those particularly who want an investment combined with life assurance, and it has not the drawbacks of the Tontine plan.

ADJUSTMENTS OF LUMBER LOSSES.

We have been requested to present to our readers some points connected with the adjustment of fire losses upon lumber. After making diligent enquiry among some of the most experienced adjusters of our acquaintance, we learn that this class of adjustments, especially when the lumber loss was in first hands, at the mill, or in yards owned by them, or for sale on commission, is among the most trying and difficult falling to their lot to settle satisfactorily to both parties. While the process is the same as for the adjustment of any other species of property, yet the measure of damage which is to be computed upon the *cost* price of the subject at risk, to the owner at the locality where destroyed, is difficult to be arrived at, for several reasons, of which we speak more in detail further on; and just here it is that the question presents itself: What is the cost of the lumber? For insurance being simply a contract of indemnity and not of gain for the insured, it becomes important that this cost be first ascertained, so that no injustice shall be inflicted upon the insured by too low valuation, or upon the insurers by too high valuation, exceeding the indemnity guaranteed by the policy.

There are several important, but, unfortunately, from the nature of the subject, indefinite factors involved in the first cost of lumber at the mill, ready for sale; hence it happens that such cost can be but a matter of estimate at best. These factors are the value of the land to either owner or lessee, and the actual value of the standing merchantable timber thereon; this, as we have said, must be estimated, then follow the more certain charges for cutting, hauling to mill, the cost of manufacture, the stumpage and mileage duty to Government, and the local tax on the production, all of which are component parts of the actual cost of the lumber, at the mill, ready for shipment; if sent to a yard in any city the cost of transportation, and expense of handling until piled in the yard, are to be added, the product giving the actual cost as it stands there. And this is the price value on which the measure of damage in the event of a fire loss thereto *should* be predicated. Some idea of the extent of the "stumpage" and the "mileage" duty, and the local tax upon manufactured lumber, we get from a letter to the St. John, N. B., *Globe*, from Mr. David Wark, in which this question is discussed. After giving the former duty charges, estimated at thirty cents per thousand feet, he says:

"When the Washington treaty rendered the repeal of the export duty necessary the Dominion made us a permanent grant, in lieu of what we collected on United States timber, of \$150,000, annually. It must be admitted that this was ample for the sacrifice we made, and left no deficiency to be provided for, even by continuing the 30 cents import, yet the Government at once imposed 60 cents stumpage, which they soon advanced to 80 cents, and now they give notice that the \$8 mileage heretofore credited in the stumpage, will no longer be refunded. Therefore, if Mr. Rankin's estimate, made forty years ago, that 10s. mileage was equal to 5 cents per M., there can be but little doubt that the \$8 now imposed will be equal to 20 cents per M., raising the actual cost to \$1. Parties well acquainted with the subject have