

Bearing of Taxation Burdens

Insurance is the only business that since the beginning of the Germanic war has not sought an alibi. It has not raised the price of its product, it has not lowered its service. It has suffered two extreme epidemics. It has incurred disgracefully heavy taxation, it has experienced competition from the government. But at no time has it sought to make excuses, nor has the occasion existed. The reason for this phenomenal record is that the insurance business is founded on the bed rock of honest, scientific management. Its rates, its earnings, its assets, its management are matters of public record. Nothing is concealed; there is nothing to conceal.

It is remarkable that public recognition has not been accorded this striking fact, an omission that can only be accounted for by the modest failure of our company officials to challenge attention to the phenomenon.

It would seem that instead of appreciation, we have deserved a penalty. At least we have received such in the matter of federal taxation. In that regard, the insurance business still stands forth as the Ishmael of all legitimate occupations. Insurance is the only standard business that pays a capital stock tax, a normal income tax, an excess profit tax and an occupation tax. And we are the only business of any character in which it is expressly provided that we cannot pass on our occupation tax to the consumer. For us to rest under such discrimination, as this would indicate that we had not sufficient spirit to resent and resist an international discrimination between ourselves and other avocations, and that we were so poor in spirit as to invite aggression and indeed insult.

No matter what conditions confront the Federal government we should not cease to insist that these objectionable taxes should be repealed and our taxation placed upon a reasonable basis.

P. M. ESTES

PERSONALS

Among the callers at The Chronicle Office last week was Mr. Henry Brown, chairman of the Century Insurance Company Limited, Edinburgh, Scotland. Mr. Brown was accompanied by Mr. Grier, general manager for Canada, Vancouver. It will be remembered that Mr. Brown who had been for thirty years Managing Director of the Century, was early this year appointed Chairman of Directors. Before arriving in Montreal Mr. Brown spent two months in Vancouver visiting his daughter. He sailed for home this week. While the Century is well known, and well established at the Coast, it is not so well known Companies at Montreal.

Mr. W. Pascoe Rutter, director and general manager of the London & Lancashire Insurance Company, spent a couple of days in Montreal this week, visiting the Company's important branch office. Mr. Rutter who is on a world tour, left on the 21st instant for Toronto and the Western States.

Mr. George Chappell, general manager of the Royal Insurance Company arrived in Montreal this week, accompanied by Mr. Walter Carter the Company's general attorney for the United States. Both gentlemen left on the 21st instant for Toronto, accompanied by the Canadian manager Mr. J. H. Labelle. Mr. Chappell will attend the annual conference of the Royal managers to be held in the United States next month.

Mr. Hubert S. P. Rutter (son of W. Pascoe Rutter) is visiting Canada, and was in Montreal this week on business in connection with his firm, Mann, Rutter & Co. Insurance Brokers, London, Eng. Mr. Rutter states he has had a most successful visit. He left for Toronto, Chicago and New York a few days ago.

Montreal Fire Insurance Brokers Association

The Montreal Fire Insurance Brokers Association have requested us to announce that the speaker at the Association's luncheon to be held at Freeman's on October 7th, will be Mr. Grove Smith, Commissioner of Conservation. Mr. Smith is a fluent speaker, and a large number of fire insurance men are expected to be present on the occasion. A limited number of admission tickets may be obtained from the Secretary Mr. E. C. Cole.

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