

FIRE RECORD.

January 16.—Fire at St. Anne's College, Church Point, Digby, N.S. Insurance as follows:—

Commercial Union	\$8,000
Phoenix of Hartford	5,000
Queen	7,500
Total loss.	

WINNIPEG BOARD OF FIRE UNDERWRITERS.

On the 5th inst. the Winnipeg Board of Fire Underwriters held their annual meeting, and elected the following officers for the current year: President, H. M. Lambert; vice-president, Robt. Strang; secretary-treasurer, R. H. Hayward.

A SPUR FOR THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.—The *Outlook* says: Canada has once again led the way in Imperialism. There is reason to believe that the British Treasury would have been brought to acquiesce had Canada been content to contribute two-ninths of the cost of the all-British cable across the Pacific, leaving the United Kingdom to contribute three-ninths, and Australasia four-ninths. But Canada is in earnest in this bit of practical Imperialism, and though her commercial and strategical interest in the Pacific cable must be vastly less than is that of the Mother-land, she has—as our Ottawa correspondent foreshadowed she would—gone beyond all expectation, and put upon the counter a proposal to bear two-ninths of the cost. This public-spirited offer must shame the Imperial Government into action. The time has indeed come to grapple with this question of the cables of the Empire in a broad and statesmanlike fashion. It is

of an Imperial system of State-owned cables that the Empire stands urgently in need. Experience has abundantly justified the action of the State thirty years ago in assuming control of the inland telegraph system of the United Kingdom, and there are incomparably stronger reasons to-day for the State control of a cable system for the whole Empire.



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