The correspondents state that no arrangement for their comfort and accommodation was overlooked, and they have nothing but praise for the C.P.R. and G.T.R.

At many places along the route they were hospitably entertained by press and municipality. In the Mormon country the people received them with brass bands and a big celebration.

WILL NOT PAY INSURANCE.

The Trans-Atlantic Fire Insurance Company of Hamburg, Germany, has refused to pay San Francisco insurance claims approximating $4,000,000. The following statement was given out by the local officials of the company:

"The Trans-Atlantic Fire Insurance Company denies liability upon the ground that the losses arose from an overwhelming catastrophe, due to a visitation of Providence, for indemnity against the consequences of which the policy never was intended to provide, and does not provide. Moreover, the attitude of the reinsuring companies at home compels the Trans-Atlantic to assume this position."

CONFLAGRATION HAZARD.

We have repeatedly maintained that while fire insurance is undoubtedly a branch of commerce, yet the rules which regulate commercial transactions generally cannot be applied with the same certainty to this business, for the simple reason, that there is an "unknown quantity" connected with the results of the latter, which underwriters so far have only been able to roughly estimate, after an experience of over two hundred years the "unknown quantity" still remains.

In spite of the progress that has been made in respect to city fire protection, automatic sprinklers, and improvement in the construction of buildings, the most uncertain factor in fire underwriting, and therefore, the most difficult to deal with, is what is called, the conflagration hazard, so that it is "mere chance" whether a company loses $1,000 or $100,000. It is very easy to rate a particular risk upon its merits, according to its construction, occupancy, area, and immediate exposure, but this may be all upset by a conflagration. Hence the necessity of adding a certain percentage to the premium, to enable the companies, to provide a reserve fund, over and above what is merely sufficient to cover the liability of outstanding risks, because in that liability the conflagration hazard is not taken into account at all.

If the business of fire insurance is made profitable, the public are benefited indirectly, seeing that if fire insurance was allowed to become unprofitable, a large amount of the security for which the insured pays would be swept away, and to some extent at least indemnity would be such in name only.

CALIFORNIA LOSSES.

Last week the New York Insurance Department, made public the sworn statements of the companies operating in that State as to their losses in the California conflagrations. Early in May the companies reported estimated net losses of $113,441,595, but their latest statements show losses of $132,823,067 an increase of $19,381,472.

We append a list of companies (all of whom with one or two exceptions, operate in Canada) showing statement of losses by California conflagrations.

Ætna	$2,700,000
Connecticut	2,241,000
Hartford	6,186,701
Insurance Company of North America	2,700,000
Phœnix of Hartford	1,762,068
Alliance	1,758,686
Atlas	1,778,157
British America	388,100
Caledonian	1,476,406
Commerical Union	2,146,529
Law Union & Crown	1,368,460
Liverpool & London & Globe	3 998,000
London Assurance	4,016,471
London & Lancashire Fire	3,575,916
Munich, Re-Insurance	3,000,000
North British & Mercantile	3,000,000
Northern	2,061,426
Norwich Union	750,030
Palatine	1,843,650
Phœnix of London	2,367,680
Royal	4,338,627
Royal Exchange	2,639,564
Scottish Union & National	1,300,000
Sun Fire	1,657,666
Union	2,345,420
Western	591,700
German American	2,380,880
Home	2,141,236
Phenix of Brooklyn	2,296,125
Queen	1,449,149
Rochester German	639,132

CALIFORNIA CONFLAGRATIONS.

Our contemporary "The Insurance Post," Chicago, referring to California conflagrations, says:

"Never before were rate increases more needed or mor justifiable, and never before were they harder to get. The conflagration which made them necessary has added another to the many insurance complications for which it is responsible, by putting a number of companies into a position where they are more concerned with getting in a lot of premiums at once, to help restore their impaired resources, than with maintaining tariff rates. They are willing to take chances on future losses, provided they can hurry in enough money, by cut rates or excess commissions, to meet present claims. Many of these offenders are companies that usually can be counted on to maintain rates, but they feel that they are fighting for their lives, and must meet a crisis with emergency methods. This is rough on the other companies, but their only compensation is that a company rouses suspicion as to its solvency when it cuts rates under existing conditions.

With insurance men there should be no need for any argument to show that increased rates are necessary. The payment of $250,000,000 at San