VICTORY LOAN, 1918

T. H. Estabrooks, New Brunswick: "Prospects for the coming Victory Loan campaign could scarcely be better. Crops are good and business of all kinds, save lumbering, are excellent. New Brunswick will raise and exceed her quota, without a doubt."

Sir Augustus Nanton, Manitoba: "Last year Manitoba was asked to lend $15,000,000. The answer was $32,294,450. This year Manitob's quota is $33,000,000. I am satisfied the Province will reply with subscriptions largely in excess of that figure. The Province has been blessed with good crops which will be sold at high figures. All classes of labour are fully employed and handsome wages are being paid. I feel sure that the per capita subscription of Manitoba will exceed any other Province."

Hon. Charles A. Dunning, Saskatchewan: "The spirit of the people is excellent and already there are indications that those districts which have been favored by Providence with good crops are impressed with the necessity of making up in volume of subscriptions for those other districts where the possibilities are not so good. I feel sure that the people of Saskatchewan will do their very best in the same spendid manner as in connection with every other patriotic enterprise since the commencement of the war."

John Ramsay, Northern Alberta: "We will surely reach our objective. Conditions as to crops are not so good as last year; but this condition will be overcome by a better understanding of just what a bond purchase means. Our people in season and out supported the boys at the front. Now, with the good news we are receiving daily, there seems to be no possible obstacle in the way of our reaching the quota set for us."

W. Toole, Southern Alberta: "Agricultural and live stock conditions are not as favourable as last year; but the spirit of our people is in sympathy with the undertaking and we have every reason to believe that our quota will be subscribed."

W. H. Malkin, British Columbia: "Last year the objective was $12,000,000 and the people subscribed $18,014,000. This year we have set a local objective of $25,000,000 and I feel sure we shall go over the top."

C. H. B. Longworth, Prince Edward Island: "This Province is asked to subscribe $2,500,000 and the result of the drive is awaited with confidence."

MINNESOTA FOREST FIRES

Reports from the Minnesota district, the scene of the recent huge forest fires, would seem to indicate that losses were not so great in many cases as was at first thought, although it is stated that the loss of life has increased to a total of seven hundred and fifty. Our contemporary, the Weekly Underwriters, says:

Adjusters are discovering that many of the companies did not possess accurate information as to the property involved, especially in the case of those writing logs, ties and poles.

There was a considerable loss in automobiles, among other special losses, and so far it is thought that more than 1,000 cars have been destroyed wholly or in part. Another feature of the fire is that very little reinsurance was involved, considering the large amount of total loss. The lines written were for the most part small, being generally on farms, dwellings, and household goods. Smoke damages have been claimed in a great many instances, particularly in Duluth, but it is believed that most of the damage is temporary only.

When the fire was nearing Cloquet, the town that was practically wiped out, several insurants tried to get additional coverage over the telephone, but the Duluth agencies were aware of the progress of the flames, and refused to write it. One firm, the Cloquet Lumber Co., did succeed in obtaining $175,000 of additional insurance on the same day that the plant was burned.

The fact that most of the poles had been taken from the woods by this time of the year, and most of the insurance on them is terminated by the first of August, is responsible for the comparatively small loss sustained by companies writing this line of business.

There have been few forest fires in recent years, the Minnesota insurance department having assured the companies that the hazard was greatly reduced, and much of the territory involved had been cut over years ago and was ordinary farming country, with only a little more than the usual proportion of wooded territory. The disaster resulted from a combination of prolonged dry weather and a wind from the right direction, variously estimated as blowing from 60 to 90 miles an hour. Once given a good start, the blaze followed the usual custom of conflagrations, its own heat developing such a brand-filled blast that scattering fire would often start several miles ahead of the main line of the conflagration.

The fire covered several counties and destroyed over thirty towns and all the farming property, the heaviest loss being at Cloquet, a lumber town with about 10,000 population. There were several large lumber plants here, the lumber alone being valued at $5,000,000, while the total values in the town are estimated at $15,000,000. Estimates on the property loss vary from $30,000,000 to $40,000,000, and the insurance loss is believed to be between $15,000,000 and $20,000,000.

CAPT. C. G. BURTON THOMPSON, M.C.

It is announced that Capt. Thompson of the Royal Canadian Regiment, who was previously decorated with the Military Cross, has just received the Bar to the Cross and, from the French Government, the Croix de Guerre. In the absence of the O.C. Capt. Thompson was given command of the Battalion in a recent important engagement and these new decorations are apparently intended as a tribute to his success.

Capt. Thompson is the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Gardner Thompson, Fan-na-greine, Montreal.

GREAT AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY
Large Increase in Capital

On the 24th instant the stockholders of the Great American Insurance Company, New York, voted unanimously to increase the company's capital stock from $2,000,000 to $5,000,000. This substantial addition to the capital stock of this great American company is considered an important step forward. Its capital has been one of the smallest of the large fire insurance companies in proportion to its assets and surplus. The action will increase the surplus, which is now nearly $10,000,000, by $1,500,000.