

FRATERNAL SOCIETY MAY INCREASE RATES

The Dominion Commercial Travelers' Mutual Benefit Society, Montreal, is faced with the necessity of raising its assessments, as the only alternative to remaining actuarially unsound. The society commenced business in Quebec province in 1875, and operates under provincial license. The rate question was brought up at a quarterly meeting on December 6, and will be submitted at the annual meeting on January 17. As older members would be required to pay much higher rates to make up for the insurance they have been carrying too cheaply, considerable opposition is anticipated.

ASSOCIATION OF LIFE INSURANCE PRESIDENTS

Canadians present at the 1919 convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, held in New York, December 4th and 5th, were: Charles R. Acres, secretary, Canada Life Assurance Co., Toronto; Sir Henry Drayton, minister of finance, Ottawa; L. Goldman, president and general manager, North America Life Insurance Co., Toronto; E. S. Macfarlane, secretary, Manufacturers' Life Insurance Co., Toronto; J. A. Macdonald, secretary, Confederation Life Association, Toronto; E. M. Saunders, treasurer, Canada Life Assurance Co., Toronto; J. F. Weston, managing director, Imperial Life Assurance Co. of Canada, Toronto.

Frederick Frelinghuysen, president of the Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co. of Newark, New Jersey, was elected a member of the executive committee to succeed the late George E. Ide. The executive committee for 1920 is as follows: George T. Wight (chairman), Louis F. Butler, Jesse R. Clarke, George I. Cochrane, W. A. Day, Forrest F. Dryden, Haley Fiske, Alfred D. Foster, Frederick Frelinghuysen, Charles A. Peabody.

The officers of the association for 1919 were re-elected as follows: George T. Wight, secretary and manager; John E. Hedges, general counsel; Frederic G. Dunham, attorney; Orlow H. Boies, statistician; Mott A. Brooks, assistant secretary.

Two important resolutions were passed. One reaffirmed the action of the two previous conventions relative to government insurance of soldiers and sailors and urged all present and former service men to retain their insurance therein. The other resolution related to the railroads, and was as follows:—

"Whereas, abnormal economic conditions, induced by disturbance of finance, industry, transportation and normal production due to the war, still exist; and

"Whereas, normal conditions can be restored only through the conservation of resources, enhanced production and the rigid practice of economy;

"Resolved, that life insurance men throughout the nation should respond to the present imperative demand for high national service by giving, and by urging upon policyholders to give effective support, directly or through appropriately constituted organizations, to the promotion of the following objects:—

"1. The rehabilitation of the railroads and establishment by law of rates adequate to provide for the present and future demands of our growing commerce and to stabilize the credit and securities of the roads.

"2. The adoption of a national budget system and the general curtailment of governmental expenditures and consequent reduction in taxes.

"3. The exertion of special and vigorous efforts to encourage the saving habit and generally to inculcate the principles of thrift."

COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS

The following is a statement of ore, in pounds, from Cobalt Ore Station, for the week ended December 6th, 1919:—
McKinley-Darragh, 108,145; total, 108,145.

The total since January 1st is 23,139,998 pounds, or 11,569.99 tons.

PUBLIC MUST PAY FOR UTILITIES

At the sitting of the Board of Railway Commissioners in Winnipeg last week regarding the application of the telegraph companies for increased rates, the point was emphasized by Hon. F. B. Carvell that the public must realize that it could not have competent railway and telegraph service or other utilities unless it was prepared to pay more as operating expenses and wages increase.

Ald. F. O. Fowler, secretary of the Northwest Grain Dealers' Association, stated that he did not begrudge capital a fair return on its investment when fairly and honestly made, but the public wants to be satisfied on that point, and in many cases it is not satisfied, which is accountable for much of the present trouble. "The agitated state of the public mind now must be taken into consideration," he said.

The board returned to Ottawa on December 6th. Telegraph rates will be further considered in Halifax on December 15th, in St. John on December 16th, and in Ottawa on December 18th.

CANADIAN MINING INSTITUTE

The Canadian Mining Institute held its annual convention in Vancouver, B.C., November 26th to 29th. The president, R. McDougall, did not attend, and the chair was occupied by other members. In addition to technical questions, the subject of taxation was also discussed, one of the addresses being by F. Bradshaw, of San Francisco. An address on the relations which should exist between governments and the mining industry was given by R. W. Brock, of Vancouver, B.C. F. W. Gray, of Montreal, spoke on the iron and steel industry and expressed the opinion that the outlook in British Columbia was good.

At the final session several resolutions were passed, including the following:—

"That some suitable plan whereby returned soldiers may be given government aid to do prospecting work in the summer of 1920 be urged upon the government;

"That the policy of the C.M.I. council, in arranging an annual meeting in western Canada, be the subject of the appreciation of the meeting, and that the appreciation of the secretary, Mortimer Lamb, be expressed. Mr. Lamb, it was pointed out, has served for 15 years, not only to the benefit of the institute, but to the national good of the industry.

"That appreciation be expressed of the policy of the federal minister of mines in organizing a branch of the geological survey in B.C., under Charles Camsell and in Alberta under Mr. Stewart, in that this policy has been most beneficial to the development of the mineral resources of the provinces;

"That it be suggested to the government that all machinery used in a basic industry, when imported by the user, should be allowed to enter duty free unless it is made in Canada, of an equal quality, and offered at reasonable prices;

"That the council appoint a committee to act in conjunction with other interested bodies, to secure information on the taxation of gold mines, this data to be laid before such governing bodies as is considered advisable;

"That the use of platinum in jewelry in view of the shortage for industrial uses, together with the question of the taxation of the metal, be referred to the committee on the taxation of gold mines. It was pointed out by Dr. Hodge that platinum was in great demand and the supply was limited. He suggested that it should be used for technical purposes rather than for the decoration of human beings.

"That the unification of the mining laws of the various provinces, particularly in relation to the tenure of mining leases, is desirable."

The North American Life Assurance Co. has increased its maximum limit from \$20,000 to \$25,000 in the case of male lives under 45 years of age, who are in all respects first-class lives. The company, however, reserves the right in all cases to determine what portion of any risk shall be reinsured.