an academic subject for so practical a writer to address to a coal-burning public. But while the subject in itself takes him farther from present conditions than is usual with him, Mr. Creamer well enforces the present dangers of defective stoves, stove-pipes and chimneys, and from carelessness in the management of household fires of all sorts. In Ohio alone he states the loss directly traceable to accidents of coal and wood heaters to be over $1,000,000 in the course of a year. Among the particular causes mentioned are escaping sparks from defective stove-pipes and chimneys, soot ignition, hot ashes in barrels, and coals falling from grates. Even the most thoughtless reader could scarcely fail to be impressed somewhat with the importance of greater care in the matter of attending to household heating.

A useful series of household suggestions, exceedingly wide in their range, has been issued recently in a circular from the Kentucky Board of Fire Underwriters. This informing bulletin affords a practical illustration of the sort of information that should be disseminated widely through Canada as well.

A still wider educational campaign is being planned for the United States public by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. Better building construction is the immediate result aimed at, and the board intends sending out 30,000 copies of the revised National Building Code. Separate letters have been prepared for mayors, chiefs of fire departments, boards of underwriters, boards of trade and special agents—each adapted to the class of recipients. The gist of all the letters is the same—that the one and only way to reduce insurance cost is to lessen the fire waste by improving present construction methods.

CONNECTICUT FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Despite the past year's unprecedented tax upon the resources of fire companies everywhere, the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company of Hartford is able to publish a 57th annual statement that cannot but inspire entire confidence among its multitude of policy-holders. The company paid losses in San Francisco under 1,438 policies amounting net to $2,333,276.50, the net amount of admitted outstanding claims, direct and indirect, being but $41,607.12. To-day the assets of the company are more than $5,400,000, its net surplus being nearly $1,000,000 besides its capital of $1,000,000. The maintaining of so strong a position after the strain entailed by conflagration losses were made possible by the action of the stockholders in promptly paying up $1,000,000 in cash to cope with the emergency. On another page are given the exact figures appearing in the annual statement of this well known Hartford Company whose Montreal office is in charge of Mr. W. Mayne McCombe.

SENATOR COX'S RESIGNATION.

The Hon. Senator Cox has been connected with the Canadian Bank of Commerce for over twenty years during three of which he was a director, and for seventeen has been the president. During that period the bank has made great progress in all that tends to make a financial institution solid. The reasons given for his retirement as stated by the Senator himself are first: that he has promised his family to lessen the strain, which is the inevitable result of taking so active an executive part as he has done for many years in so many business concerns, second that having occupied for so many years a position of honour as the head of the bank, he thought it only fair to make way for somebody else, and third to enable him to devote more time to the Canada Life and the Central Canada Loan. We quite appreciate the motives of the senator, who is connected with so many other business institutions. In the case also of some of the others from which he is to retire his withdrawal is much to be regretted.

The successor to Senator Cox in the presidency is Mr. Byron E. Walker, who is looked upon as one of the leading bankers in the Dominion, and we are quite sure that he will be a worthy successor to the senator.

Mr. Laird who succeeds Mr. Walker as general manager, has been assistant general manager for only a short period, but has had a long connection with the Canadian Bank of Commerce as its New York representative. His appointment to such a responsible position while yet a young man is very flattering and we wish him all success in his new position.

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE.

The London and Lancashire Life reports a satisfactory year's business for 1906. New assurance exceeding by about 30 p.c. any past year's record has been placed. The prospects from the Provinces of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan bid fair to produce a larger business during 1907 than the encouraging amount written in 1906. The company is to be congratulated upon securing the services of Mr. L. V. Norman, as assistant superintendent of agencies. He has been a successful organizer and business writer for 15 years. In St. John Mr. S. S. de Forrest, has been appointed provincial manager. Judging from the references made in many quarters to both these gentlemen few equally popular appointments could have been made.