

MR. R. HILL STEWART.

Mr. R. Hill Stewart, general manager of the Caledonian, is visting this side of the Atlantic for the first time, and arrived in Montreal on the 8th instant, where he spent a couple of days. Mr. Stewart expressed himself as being much impressed with the evidence of wealth and industrial activity everywhere apparent in the metropolitan city of the Dominion. He was particularly interested with the excellent manner in which grain is handled and trans-shipped, while inspecting the fine grain elevators on the city's harbour front. Although this is Mr. Stewart's first visit to Canada, his name is a most familiar one to those connected with the 'oldest' Scottish Company, owing to his official position as secretary of the Caledonian for very many years, previous to his assuming the position of general manager about two years ago, on the retirement of Mr. Chapman. Mr. Stewart left Montreal on the 10th instant, accompanied by the Canadian manager, Mr. J. G. Borthwick, for the Coast. While en route, he will visit important centres such as Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Victoria, etc., where the Caledonian is well represented, and most popular.

NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Mr. Alex. Hurry, the newly-appointed manager of the Casualty Department of the Northern Assurance Company, in Canada, arrived in Montreal on the 11th instant, to assume his new duties. Mr. Hurry has been connected with the Northern, during his whole business career of twenty-two years, in the Head Offices at Aberdeen and London. He has in addition to this, an extensive experience in the field. He is now engaged at the Company's Head Office for Canada, in Montreal, in the necessary work to enable the Company to commence its operations in the casualty field at an early date throughout the Dominion, for which a license has already been granted. The standing of the Northern and its well-known reputation for liberality and service to its policy-holders, will no doubt ensure the success of the new department in Canada. We have no doubt that Mr. G. E. Moberley, the Company's Canadian manager, will find the new department a considerable acquisition to his branch.

CAN'T RECOGNIZE HIGH PRICES OF LAND

A. L. Crossin, of the financial firm of Oldfield, Kirby and Gardner, Winnipeg, has called attention to an interesting situation in connection with farm mortgages and an increase in land values.

From all parts of the province there have come statements with reference to large increases in these values. In certain districts these prices

have risen to \$60, \$80 and \$100 an acre or more.

The owners of these properties are asking the loan companies to recognize the new scale of values and to make loans in corresponding volume.

Mr. Crossin states that it is quite legitimate for owners of farm lands to adopt a new scale of prices, but that they are not going to do it on mortgage company money. For one reason, he says, there is not the money in the country to do it. There is no money coming into this province from Britain or the continent of Europe. On the other hand large sums are being recalled to those nations. Manitoba has to rely on its native wealth for increases in the sums available for loaning, and there is no great surplus to provide for these extraordinary advances in the quotations on farm lands.

Borrowers write in from the country asking for loans, fixing the value of the lands at \$60 an acre or more, but the mortgage companies are not inclined to accept these figures, and in any case the sums which they have for loaning purposes are limited. There is no apparent way of providing at the present time for unprecedented increases in market quotations.

"CASUALTY'S GREATEST NEED."

There is something especially admirable in the way that casualty insurance is tackling the problems of the reconstruction era. It is going at them with a vim and vigor that makes for certainty in the matter of great future success.

Changed conditions are being met with new plans and methods that cannot fail to result in safe and sure running through the trying uncertain period in which all businesses find themselves now wading, and out into the calmer times which, inevitably, thank goodness, lie not far ahead. Happily the extensive labor troubles do not affect casualty insurance deeply, the reason being too well known to need mentioning. The innocent bystander may "get his," but "he is altogether too few" for casualty to notice.

With the tightening of rates and conditions on which business is written, casualty meets the something of increase of losses with more of a smile than a frown and no particle of fear. Its volume of writing has increased largely of late, and with greater effort put forth to expand its agency forces—greater effort through the insurance press of the country—it should readily increase its business. Casualty officials themselves have recently been heard to reiterate the opinion that the greatest need of the business is more men in the field, men particularly strong at meeting the new demands of this reconstruction era.—Western Insurance Review.