

Ottawa. The tendency to frequent and lengthy speeches by a small number of members needs checking. The habit is very very wasteful of the time, and strength of members who are frequently quite wearied out with listening to long, rambling, ill-digested, unprepared speeches which have very little to do with the matter under debate. During all the time occupied by these verbose speeches the expenses of Parliament are being increased. Were it not for this pernicious loquacity of members, if they were compelled to keep strictly to the question in hand, each session might be so reduced as to extend from 75 to 100 days at the maximum, and were this term established as the standard there would not be the slightest excuse for paying such an extravagant sum as \$2,500 for the sessional indemnity.

#### ACCIDENT UNDERWRITERS' ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At the recent Convention of the Accident Underwriters' Association at Muskoka Hotel, Lake Rousseau, the following officers for next year were elected unanimously:

President—William Bro Smith, Travelers Insurance Company.

Vice-Presidents—Geo. S. Dana, Commercial Travelers of Utica (re-elected); J. E. Roberts, Dominion of Canada Guarantee & Accident Company.

Treasurer—George C. Pratt, New Amsterdam Casualty Company.

Secretary—G. Leonard McNeill, Massachusetts Mutual Accident Association (re-elected).

Executive Committee—H. G. B. Alexander, chairman, Continental Casualty; Franklin J. Moore, General Accident (re-elected); Edson S. Lott, United States Casualty; F. E. Halsey, Iowa Traveling Men's (re-elected); Walter C. Faxon, Aetna Life (re-elected); A. E. Forrest, North American; Wilfred C. Potter, Preferred Accident; A. W. Masters, London Guarantee & Accident.

The new executive committee is confronted by a number of vital questions which the eighteenth convention has considered and on which it set the seal of its opinion to discontinue. The limit of weekly indemnity to be fixed at a total of 78 weeks, the discontinuance of the accumulation feature, and the exclusion of the beneficiary clause claim immediate and vigorous attention. Chairman Alexander, who is recognized as a man of deeds and who has the best interests of the association deeply at heart, is looked to as the man who, aided by an able committee, will bring these vexatious problems to a satisfactory adjustment and remove from the sphere of accident insurance these "frills" which are deemed so unwise.

**THE HEAT AND SPRINKLERS.**—A number of sprinklers in United States were operated, or set to work, by the intense heat in July.

#### THE JULY FIRE LOSS.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of July, as compiled from the carefully kept records of the "Journal of the New York Commercial Bulletin," shows a total of \$13,173,250. The following table shows the losses by months for the first seven months of 1905 and a comparison with the losses of the same period in 1903 and 1904:

	1905.	1904.	1903.
January .....	\$16,378,100	\$21,790,200	\$13,166,350
February .....	25,591,000	90,051,000	16,090,800
March .....	14,715,400	11,212,150	9,907,650
April .....	11,901,350	23,623,000	13,549,000
May .....	12,736,250	15,221,400	16,366,800
June .....	11,789,800	10,646,700	14,684,350
July .....	13,173,250	11,923,200	12,838,600
Totals .....	\$106,285,150	\$184,457,650	\$96,593,550
August .....		9,715,200	8,428,350
September .....		14,387,650	9,939,450
October .....		12,866,200	10,409,800
November .....		11,515,000	13,589,550
December .....		19,422,350	17,224,700
Total 12 mos. ....		\$252,364,050	\$156,195,600

During the month of July there were 283 fires of a destructiveness, each, of \$10,000 or more. A detailed list appears on the insurance page, this issue. They may be classified as follows:

\$10,000 to \$20,000 .....	120
20,000 to 30,000 .....	56
30,000 to 60,000 .....	42
50,000 to 75,000 .....	26
75,000 to 100,000 .....	14
100,000 to 200,000 .....	19
200,000 to 875,000 .....	6
Total .....	283

The large fires during the month under review were these:

Goderich, Ont., grain elevator .....	\$230,000
Boston, Mass., lumber yard and other .....	200,000
Meridian, Miss., cotton compress .....	175,000
Goldfields, New., two business blocks .....	200,000
Allentown, Pa., provision plant .....	400,000
Columbus, Ohio, meat packing plant .....	185,000
Louisville, Ky., railroad depot .....	350,000
Humble, Tex., oil tanks and well rigs .....	875,000

The July losses were heavier than the fire underwriters expected. The Pacific Coast experienced a number of quite costly fires. July is usually a fairly light month for the insurance companies, although not so favourable generally as August. Fire insurance managers hope that their profits in August and September will be a decided offset to the losses during the earlier months of the year.

**LARGEST POLICY-HOLDERS NOT WORRIED.**—The late John Hay, Secretary of State, carried a policy of \$100,000 in the Equitable Life. It is safe to say that the beneficiaries of the policy are not worrying about the awful condition of affairs in the society's management. It is the reporter on the yellow journal who has never carried even an industrial policy, who is most exercised over the extravagance and corruption which might reduce the dividends on a twenty-year accumulation policy a few cents a thousand.—"Insurance Record."

**THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE** has opened a branch at Cobalt, Ont.