

Notes on Business, Insurance and Finance.

Association of Life Insurance Presidents.

Chicago has been chosen as the place of the fourth annual meeting of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents. The meeting will be held on December 9th and 10th next. The manner and extent of the treatment of life insurance as a study in the colleges and universities of the United States is one of the subjects to be discussed. During the present year the Association has been making an exhaustive inquiry into this matter, gathering original statistics from nearly 600 institutions of higher education. The results of this investigation will be presented and addresses as to future development of this kind of instruction will be made by university officials and others interested. The whole question of vocational training in such institutions will be broadly discussed. Other subjects on the programme include the taxation of life insurance policyholders and the necessity for uniform state laws. In connection with the Association's plans for the prolongation of human life, the following resolution has been adopted at a regular bi-monthly meeting of the Association in New York:—"Whereas the protection of the people of this country from the ravages of disease due to unsanitary conditions surrounding the public supplies of water, milk and other foods, ineffective sanitary laws and regulations and the unhealthy conditions too often allowed to prevail in various trades and employments, is a subject of great importance to all citizens, and whereas it is to the lengthening of the average term of human life we must look mainly for reduction of cost of life insurance, which is a matter of great interest to life insurance companies, now therefore, be it resolved that we hereby urge upon the attention of officers and agents of life insurance companies the need for them to co-operate in all efforts to improve sanitary laws and regulations, and the enforcement thereof, and be it further resolved, that the Life Extension Committee of this Association be requested to formulate, if possible, a definite plan, to be reported at the next meeting of this Association, whereby and whereunder its members may be able to help along, in some systematic way, the movement having for its general purpose the prevention of disease and the extension of the average human life."

Condition of the Crops.

The Census Office publishes a Bulletin on the condition of crops in Canada at the end of September. The reports show lower averages of condition for the whole of Canada than those of a year ago, but the reduction applies chiefly to the North-west Provinces. In the Eastern Provinces a high percentage is maintained for nearly all the crops, and quantity and quality are better than a year ago and still better than two years ago. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta there is a drop of about 20 per cent. in the quality of grains and roots, but the threshings indicate that

the yield will be larger for wheat, oats and barley than was promised at the end of August. For the whole of Canada the condition of rye at the end of September was 83.59, which is 10 per cent. better than two years ago and 2.39 better than last year. Peas and beans are nearly eight per cent. lower in condition than a year ago, but nearly ten per cent. higher than in 1908. Buckwheat is about the same as last year, and 12 per cent. better than in 1908, whilst mixed grains are better by five per cent. than last year and by 19.47 per cent. over two years ago. Corn for husking compared for the three years 1910, 1909 and 1908 shows percentages of 85.12, 86.77 and 82, and corn for fodder of 89.82, 87.18 and 92 for the respective years. The condition of potatoes is 76.08 at the end of September compared with 90.37 last year, of turnips 82.09 to 83.34 and of sugar beets 83.13 to 71.02, whilst in 1908 their condition ranged from 68 to 74. Alfalfa has a condition of 83.30 for the end of September, and it exceeds 90 in the Maritime Provinces and Ontario. In Quebec and the North-west Provinces it is not more than 70 per cent., and in British Columbia it is 88.33. All field grains in the province last named exceed 82 per cent. in quality. The estimated yield of various crops in Canada this year is given as follows:—

	Bushels.
Rye.....	1,634,000
Peas.....	6,444,500
Beans.....	1,089,600
Buckwheat.....	7,302,000
Mixed Grains.....	20,103,000
Flax.....	4,314,000
Corn for husking.....	17,682,000

The Price of Commodities.

The London Economist's index number of average commodity prices in Great Britain as of October 1, was 2,418, that representing an advance of 11 points over September 1, of 32 over August 1, and of 242 over April, 1909, when the average reached the lowest point of the reaction since 1907. Of the rise from that low point of 1909, 54 points have been contributed by an advance in raw cotton, 45 in cotton yarns, and 26 in cotton cloths. Coffee contributed 14 points, sugar 13, tin 18, iron 6, and leather 8. One offset to these advances was a decline of sixteen points in the average of wheat; otherwise net movements of prices were small. Following are the figures for the various months of the current year:

January.....	2,373	June.....	2,362
February.....	2,396	July.....	2,386
March.....	2,414	August.....	2,407
April.....	2,416	September.....	2,418
May.....	2,411		

The latest figures of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labour of the United States, reveal a tendency towards lower prices. The Department's quotations are especially interesting because they show not only the current wholesale prices in the leading United States markets and the average monthly export prices of leading articles, but also prices in foreign countries of the principal articles imported into the United States.