

CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association was held at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa, on the 28th and 29th inst. Mr. H. M. Lambert, president of the Association, was in the chair, and there was present the largest attendance in the history of the Association. Many matters of importance in connection with the interests of the Association were discussed. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows:—President, Mr. Harold Hampson, Montreal; vice-president for Quebec and the East, Mr. J. Gardner Thompson, Montreal; vice-president for Ontario and the West, Mr. E. F. Garrow, Toronto.

The All Canada Fire Insurance Federation held its annual meeting on the 28th instant also at the Chateau Laurier, Ottawa. Mr. T. L. Morrissey, president was re-elected, together with the committee:—Messrs. R. MacD. Paterson, Thomas F. Dobbin, H. Hampson, W. Mackay and J. Gardner Thompson.

THE RISK OF IMPAIRMENT.

A good many people, young and old, are strongly averse to giving any serious thought to the possibility of premature death. This is not unnatural. A man can not go through life thinking about death all the time. With persons of this kind many of the stock reasons for life insurance are ineffective. There are also some oversensitive persons who will not even consider the possibilities of sickness, but not so many. It is difficult to imagine anyone to whom the risk of impairment would be an offensive thought.

THREE GREAT RISKS.

There are three great risks—the risk of death, the risk of sickness and the risk of impairment. The risk of impairment means any change by which an insurable man becomes uninsurable or doubtful as a risk. Such an impairment need not relate to a man's own physical condition, but may be the result of a change in his family history, as where any of his near relatives become afflicted with consumption, cancer, insanity, epilepsy, etc. Close association with a consumptive, either at home or in business, is an impairment not related to immediate physical history, but over which the individual may have no control. Thus a prospect may at any time become an uninsurable risk not only by attacks of sickness or diseases which do not necessarily lessen his earning power, but by the afflictions of others not even related to him. To be denied the privilege of life insurance protection is a calamity the seriousness of which is best appreciated by those who have had the experience. The risk of impairment is a strong argument for signing an application to-day.—*Northwestern Mutual Field Notes.*

POINTS ABOUT BUSINESS INSURANCE.

Business insurance requires an expenditure of partnership or corporation funds, the same as fire insurance, but there is the difference that the business insurance policy is a growing asset and will be carried as such on the company's books, the value increasing from year to year. It is an asset upon which, after

three premiums have been paid, the firm may obtain a loan at any time, at 5 per cent. interest, without publicity, and renewable at pleasure.

Upon the dissolution of the firm, the insurance of the retiring partner or partners may be surrendered for the cash value set out in the policy, or, upon settling with the firm on the same basis, the insurance may be retained by the retiring member as personal protection.

Business insurance is also virtual protection for the family of the individual partner, since in the event of his death it insures the speedy adjustment of his interest in the business, which otherwise might be sacrificed, in whole or in part, by reason of business complications, or settlement might be long delayed.

CONFIDENCE INSTEAD OF DOUBT.

The death of one member of a firm, in addition to the loss of his active co-operation in the management, may involve the withdrawal of his capital from the business. This might mean infinite embarrassment to the remaining partner or partners, perhaps the discontinuance of the business. If, however, his life was insured for the benefit of the firm, the proceeds of the policy will enable the remaining members to buy his interest and continue the business without hindrance or delay.

The death of a co-partner naturally awakens uneasiness among creditors, which may result in embarrassment to the firm. When it is known, however, that the deceased member's life was insured for the benefit of the firm, confidence instantly takes the place of doubt and hesitation.

LEGAL DECISION.**RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPRINKLER PIPE BREAKAGE.**

The Court of Appeals at Montreal has sustained the decision of Mr. Justice Archer, in the case of the Maryland Casualty Company vs. the St. Lawrence Realty Company. The basis of suit was an accident which occurred as a result of the breaking of the main pipe of a sprinkler system in the premises of Daoust Lalonde, 45-49 Victoria square. Daoust Lalonde had leased the building from the St. Lawrence Realty Company and they were insured against such damage by the Maryland Casualty Company. In the course of the hearing in the lower court, it was shown that the breaking of the sprinkler system pipe was directly due to the settling of the building, one of the main supporting beams having sunk to such an extent that it weighed down on the pipe, with the result mentioned. The Casualty Company settled the claim of the tenant, and forthwith entered action against the proprietors of the building on the grounds that the latter, as lessors, were responsible for all damages ensuing as a result of defects in the construction of the building.

The court in reviewing the evidence maintained that the mishap was due to the fact that a supporting beam had pressed down on the sprinkler pipe, finally causing it to break. The subsidence of the beam was due to a dropping of a main column of the building, this being in turn due to a defect in the foundations. Hence the appellants as lessors were responsible.