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General Agents for B. C.

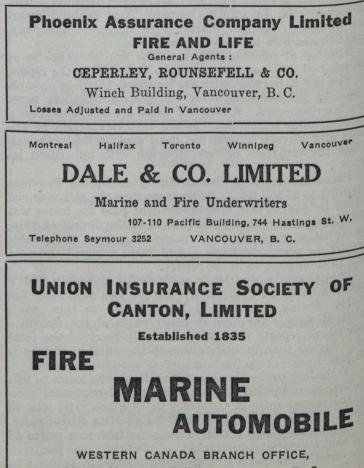
VICTORIA, B. C.

VANCOUVER, B. C.

It will be seen from the table on page 53 that the new life insurance secured displays a considerable increase over the figures for the previous year, and is an indication that the public not only realizes more fully that it is almost a duty of eitizenship to carry some life insurance, but also has the means to pay for and keep up the policies taken. It is creditable to the Province that the average amount of life insurance per capita is higher than in any other Province.

Last year was noteworthy in the history of insurance legislation through the passage by Parliament of the "Insurance Act, 1917," coupled with certain amendments to the Criminal Code, designed to strengthen the position taken by the Federal authorities. The decision rendered by the Privy Council in the Insurance Reference Case seriously impaired the principles on which the "Insurance Act, 1910," was constructed. The new Act is founded on the observations made in the judgment and seeks to derive its authority from the jurisdiction of the Dominion over aliens and in respect of the regulation of trade and commerce, while the exclusive power in the criminal field is utilized to confirm the provisions of the main Act. So far as I am aware, the constitutionality of the new enactments has not vet been tested in the courts. But it is possible that objectionable features exist and that Parliament will be found to have exceeded its powers; it may perhaps be necessary for the Province to take some step in order to protect themselves against Federal encroachments on their authority in this regard.

Meanwhile the new enactments must be accepted as law. The situation thus created has, however, proved detrimental to the interests of this Province at least. Some seven American companies have been practically forced to retire against their will, because they did not wish to commit an indictable offence nor to take out a Dominion license, as they carried on business in this Province of Canada only. Their dealings with the public here were, I believe, quite satisfactory. Thus a considerable amount of competition in the insurance business has been withdrawn, and the Pro-



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