

PALATINE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Established some twenty years ago, the Palatine Insurance Company Limited of London, England occupies a notable position among younger British Fire Companies. The annual statement published on another page constitutes a year of progress and prosperity.

At December 31st last its fire fund amounted to \$4,008,220 as compared with \$3,570,035 in 1918. In addition to this there is a paid up capital of \$1,000,000. The total assets of the Company have been advanced during the year by nearly \$1,000,000 to \$6,826,800. In addition to occupying this strong financial position, the Palatine has the advantage of close association with the Commercial Union Assurance Company Ltd., so that its policyholders have the comfortable assurance, that behind the ample specific security of their policies, lie the immense security and resources of the Commercial Union whose assets exceed the gigantic sum of over \$209,000,000.

Net premium income last year was advanced by over \$600,000, to \$3,957,650. Losses for 1919 totalled \$1,638,350, figuring a loss ratio of 41.39 per cent. to premiums as compared with 45.44 per cent. in 1918.

Canadian Branch

The Palatine has been operating in Canada for some years and is making sound progress under the management of W. S. Jopling, an old and experienced Underwriter, who also directs the affairs of the Commercial Union in Canada. The Palatine's Canadian premiums income in 1919 was advanced by over \$40,000 to \$381,632 with a loss ratio figuring at 34.86 per cent. as compared with 49.34 per cent in the preceding year. The Company's strong organization and influential connections throughout the Dominion, assure it a steady increase in business in this field, notwithstanding the steady growth of competition which is so marked in recent years.

CONVICTIONS FOR ARSON IN ONTARIO

Two convictions for Arson, were recently reported by Mr. E. P. Heaton, Fire Marshal for Ontario. Mr. Heaton, in his official capacity has been indefatigable in his efforts to secure convictions in the case of fires resulting from Arson. The Province of Ontario has had for some years, an unenviable fire record. The activity on the part of the Fire Marshal's office in securing these convictions would indicate that his department is fully alive to the fact, that the physical hazard while of vast importance, in connection with risks, sinks into insignificance, when the moral hazard is question-

able.. No stone should be left unturned by either the Government or the insurance Companies in their efforts to stamp out such a heinous crime as Arson, and every encouragement and commendation together with all possible assistance, should be freely given those who secure convictions.

The Montreal fire commissioners might with great advantage have their attention directed to these convictions, as we notice by the daily press, that their department holds weekly and sometimes daily sittings, for the purpose of enquiring into the cause of each fire reported in the City, and although many fires are reported of suspicious origin, we regret to note that so far their activities in securing convictions, are barren of results. The importance of this work is such that when a case of arson is apparent, there should be no excuse, if a conviction does not follow.. Otherwise the ceremonious sittings, and examination of numerous witnesses must be considered a fallacy, and a useless waste of both time and money.

The convictions referred to above are as follows: Orillia, Ont. On June 4th, 1920, Joseph Sheppard and George Wiser were convicted of arson, and each sentenced to serve four years in Kingston Penitentiary. Joseph Sheppard burned the dwelling-house of Wiser with the latter as accessory. object:—to defraud an insurance Company.

Ayr, Ont. On June 28th, 1920. William Dredge was at Kitchener, Ont., sentenced to seven years by Judge Hearne, for wilfully burning the plant of the John Watson Manufacturing Company, which communicated to other buildings, involving a loss of nearly \$200,000. Object:—revenge.

The National Automobile Underwriters Conference, New York

At last the situation of the automobile insurance business is to be cleared by the organization of a national body made up of officers of the companies writing that class of insurance. The National Automobile Underwriters' Conference, New York, which was reorganized recently under a new constitution, will now exercise a degree of control over the business which was formerly lacking, and the responsibility as regards each of the respective companies will be definite through the membership of one officer of each company, with voting power. The conference will not lose the advantage of the men who are directly in charge of the automobile departments of the different companies, as they may still express their views as to the needs of the business at meetings of the conference. It is apparent that the new organization should be effective in preserving stable conditions in the automobile insurance business.—*Journal of Commerce*.