

INSUFFICIENT FIRE INSURANCE.

The matter of insufficient fire insurance is of more than ordinary moment at the present time. The great enlargement within a comparatively short space of time, of values of buildings, machinery and stocks of all kinds of commodities, has rendered fire insurance arrangements made in more normal days, to some extent obsolete. An adjustment of fire insurance in accordance with existing values is an universal necessity. Even the ordinary householder would find that the cost of restoration of his dwelling and its contents, were they destroyed by fire, would be materially larger than it would have been even a few years ago. It is to be feared that many people who now believe that they are properly covered against the fire risk, are in reality inadequately covered. Moreover, realization of these facts is by no means general, and brokers and agents will perform good service in calling the attention of their clients to the urgency of this matter.

UNDER-INSURANCE OF RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

Another aspect of under-insurance, which while not new, remains of great importance is that connected with buildings and other property held in trust for religious and other purposes. It has long been a notorious fact that much property of this kind in Canada is grossly under-insured, and the record of fires appearing in these columns from time to time reveals cases where this foolish policy has resulted in exceedingly heavy financial losses to those concerned. Not to go too far back, the case may be mentioned of a seminary in New Brunswick destroyed last winter. This had just been completed at a cost of \$125,000 but only \$55,000 insurance was carried. A church fire in the province of Quebec last year resulted in a property loss of \$300,000; the insurance was \$60,000. These figures speak for themselves of the magnitude of the financial loss. The loss involved by the policy of insufficient insurance does not, of course, fall merely upon those who are in the position of trustees of the property concerned, but is sustained by the whole community interested in the property through use or maintenance. Replacement of buildings of this character, under present conditions is naturally a much more expensive business than their original erection, a fact which should be an additional incentive to those officially in charge of them to see that fire insurance is of adequate amount. The plea is frequently made, when additional fire insurance is suggested, that means are insufficient. To the outside observer, however, it would appear a somewhat easier task to raise \$200 for fire insurance premiums than \$10,000 to cover a deficiency in fire insurance after a building has been destroyed.

Certainly at this time, when demands upon the purses of the well-intentioned are endless, those actively supporting religious and charitable institutions have some right to expect that their affairs shall be managed in such manner as effectively to guard against the financial losses consequent upon fire.

AN INJURY TO THE WHOLE COMMUNITY

The most serious result which follows the practise of persistent under-insurance is that it injures financially the whole community. Fire insurance is the only method by which the monetary losses

(Continued on page 888.)

BANKS' NEW CREDIT TO BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

Arrangements have been made whereby the Canadian banks will supply a credit of \$80,000,000 in connection with the marketing of the exportable surplus of wheat, which is to be purchased chiefly by the Imperial Government. The banks will hold the wheat as security until the wheat reaches the seaboard, when they will be repaid by the British Government. It is possible that later on the Canadian Government may be able to relieve the British Government of the necessity of paying cash when wheat is delivered at seaboard, by means of further credits.

THREE YEARS' WAR BANKING.

(Continued from page 883.)

\$100,000,000 to \$740,040,741, have increased \$89,500,000 in the third year of the war to \$829,560,700. This phenomenon, in face of the fact that many corporations which formerly were heavy borrowers from the banks, have now greatly strengthened their financial position is to be accounted for by the great rise in prices, so that much larger amounts than in normal times are required to finance a given amount of commodities. Probably also, various ship-building developments are calling for bank loans.

During 1916, 2,763 certificates of authority were issued to insurance agents in the province of Saskatchewan, of which 1,746 covered all classes of insurance, and 1,017 classes other than fire.

ESTABLISHED 1873.

Standard Bank

of CANADA

QUARTERLY DIVIDEND NOTICE No. 108

NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend at the rate of THIRTEEN PER CENT. PER ANNUM upon the Capital Stock of this Bank has this day been declared for the quarter ending October 31st, 1917, and that the same will be payable at the Head Office in this City, and at its branches on and after Thursday, the 1st day of November, 1917, to Shareholders of the 20th October, 1917.

By Order of the Board,

C. H. EASSON

General Manager.

Toronto, September 21st, 1917.