

THE IDEAL CHRISTMAS GIFT.*(By the Late W. T. Standen).*

It is probable you have been thinking of a number of fitting gifts for your wife and children; but we think that we can suggest one that you may very likely have overlooked or forgotten. Our suggestion is "a Policy of Life Insurance." This is pre-eminently the most suitable of all Christmas gifts. If you present to your wife such a memento of your perpetual remembrance, it will surely fill her heart with tender gratitude for your thoughtfulness. It will be a proof to her that you think not of to-day only, but also of the many to-morrows that are to come. It will show to her the depth of your unselfish affection, and the tenderness of your consideration for her. In the midst of to-day's abundance, she will remember with feelings of gratitude, that your love has provided protection for her against the possible contingencies of to-morrow—and you must not forget that among these possible contingencies there are some so replete with disaster to all those whom you love and cherish, that the very thought of them would fill her heart with unspeakable dread. When they are in the midst of their enjoyment of the festivities that are incident to the home observance of Christmas time, there may possibly flash across your mind a thought of the want, privation and trouble that would afflict your family, if, before the coming of next Christmas, either your health or your life should fail you. Health and life are not always as reliable as we would wish them to be; they are sometimes very precarious, and no prudent man can safely depend upon them.

A WESTERN VISITOR.

Mr. C. F. Codere, of the firm of Butler, Byers Bros., & Codere, Limited, Saskatoon, Sask., spent a few days in Montreal this week. Mr. Codere is very optimistic about the future of Saskatchewan, and predicts that next spring will see an increase of land under cultivation of fully forty per cent. Mr. Codere informs us that notwithstanding the depression which has existed for some time in Western Canada the business of the companies represented in his agency to date has shown a very handsome increase. The St. Paul Fire & Marine and the Mount Royal are represented in the general agency in addition to a number of other companies locally. The loss ratio in fire insurance, Mr. Codere states will, as a whole, show a reduction to date in comparison with the same period for last year, though in the case of some companies the losses are abnormal. The hail business transacted by the firm shows very satisfactory results, the experience of the companies generally having been similar.

Bondholders of the Spanish River Pulp & Paper Mills, Limited, are being asked to defer until October 1, 1922, the payment of interest on their bonds for the next two years. A meeting of bondholders is called for December 23 in London to consent to this plan. Under the plan which is proposed, the company has the privilege of paying the 1915 and 1916 interest at any time prior to 1922, on six months' notice. The company's plan also provides for a cancellation for a period not exceeding five years, the requirement of the trust deed for the setting aside of a sinking fund to redeem the bonds. Spanish River's net profits for the year are \$125,693 against \$190,754 last year.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD*(Specially compiled for The Chronicle.)*

WINNIPEG, MAN.—W. Kraft's grocery, 606 Stella avenue, damaged, December 3. Loss \$1,650.

Store of Ham & Motherwell, wholesale men's furnishings, 558 Main Street, damaged, December 6. Stock insured in Northern.

RICHMOND, QUE.—G.T.R. depot damaged, December 6. Loss \$2,000. Originated in kitchen.

LONDON, ONT.—G. T. R. city freight sheds, containing \$25,000 merchandise destroyed, December 6. Loss \$30,000.

CORNWALL, ONT.—Large barn on Crapser Farm destroyed with contents, December 4. Loss \$12,000, partly covered by insurance.

COBourg, ONT.—W. Harnden's barn in Haldimand township destroyed with contents, December 4. Loss heavy. Origin, explosion of lantern.

SOUTH VANCOUVER, B.C.—Four-room bungalow, corner of 35th avenue and Nanaimo road, destroyed, November 30. Loss and origin, unknown.

MONTREAL.—Dry goods store of P. Malike, 2579 Notre Dame street west, damaged, December 4. Loss \$2,000. Origin, furnace.

Store of St. Louis Syndicate at 2825 St. Lawrence street kept by Jacob Itkess damaged, December 9. Loss \$3,000. Origin, unknown.

Stable of M. Lebel in rear of 93 Mullarkey avenue, Verdun, destroyed with six horses, property of V. St. Andre, 79 Gertrude Street, Verdun, December 8. Loss to stable \$1,500. Origin, unknown.

HAMILTON, ONT.—Barn of R. Cairn, 4th concession of West Flamborough, destroyed December 4. Loss, \$6,000; insurance, \$1,700. Origin, tramp.

HARRISTON, ONT.—Poultry feeding house of Gunns, Ltd., destroyed with 5,000 fowls, December 3. Loss heavy, partly insured. Fire originated in boiler room.

EDMONTON, ALTA.—Lyceum Theatre and five stores adjoining, Frame block, destroyed December 7. Loss \$30,000. Northern Hardware Company's loss being \$20,000 largely covered by insurance.

WINDSOR, ONT.—Fire destroyed home of David Schwartz, in rear of his grocery store, Erie street and Marion avenue, December 4. Store and dwelling damaged \$2,000; \$2,500 insurance was carried. Origin unknown.

SACKVILLE, N.B.—Fire destroyed Alex. Ford building in Bridge street, dislodging three tenants—Western Union Telegraph Company office, C. F. Gibbs, a barber, and a family named Fitzpatrick in upper flat, December 5. Total loss, \$3,000; mostly covered by insurance. Fire started from defective flue.

MUTUAL LIFE OF CANADA'S POSITION.

Mr. George Wegenast, general manager of the Mutual Life of Canada, states that a recent enquiry shows that the Mutual Life has about \$650,000 insurance on members of the first and second Canadian contingents. As there are many who, doubtless, failed to advise their enlistment, probably the Company will have about one million dollars of insurance exposed to war risks.

Mr. Wegenast also gives the cheerful news that in almost all respects, so far as can be foreseen, the year will be not much unlike others in the past for the Mutual Life. Income, assets, surplus, etc., will probably all show the usual increase, and even the new business now still in excess of 1913, will, it is hoped, maintain its lead, notwithstanding the very untoward financial conditions.