

CANADA TO BE REPRESENTED

On International Convention of Insurance Commissioners—Accident and Health Agents

The presence of two insurance supervising officials of Canada at the annual meeting of the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners recently held at Burlington, Vermont, may result in making the body of international importance. At one of the sessions Commissioner Preus of Minnesota presented an amendment to the constitution changing the title from National to International and making supervising officials of Canadian provinces eligible to membership. At Mr. Preus' request action on the motion was deferred until the December meeting in New York. Appreciation of the proposed amendment was made by Colonel Gunther, Superintendent of insurance of British Columbia, who also thanked the convention for an earlier resolution expressing its felicitation on the presence of two delegates from across the border, the other being Mr. A. E. Ham, inspector of insurance for Manitoba.

Mr. Ham invited the convention to meet at Winnipeg either in 1914 or 1916 and the invitation will probably be accepted for one of these years.

Supervision of Agents.

Henry D. Appleton, deputy superintendent of insurance of New Jersey, in a paper on the supervision of accident and health agents, offered the following suggestions:—

"1. Certification of agents by company.—That when the appointment blank in use by State departments merely provides for the appointment of an agent without in any sense certifying to his character, such blanks be amended so as to require a certification that the company has investigated each agent designated and certifies that his record is satisfactory; and, in the case of a newly appointed agent, that the company has satisfied itself as to his trustworthiness and competency.

"2. Filing statement of cause of cancellation of agent's license.—That when a company cancels an agent's license it should file with the department a statement of the facts causing such action.

To Refuse Certificate.

"3. Power given superintendent to refuse certificate.—That the supervising insurance official in every State—at least in the case of agents of health and accident companies—shall be given authority to refuse a license for good and sufficient reason.

"4. Profit-sharing contracts.—That the convention go a step further than did the Milwaukee convention when it adopted a resolution regarding profit-sharing contracts, by committing itself to a policy which will not permit any company to have profit-sharing contracts with its agents. Existing conditions seem to call for the abolition of all profit-sharing contracts.

"5. Twisting.—That the various State departments follow the procedure adopted in New York last October when each company was notified in the event of application being made by another company for the licensing of a man already recorded as agent for the first company.

Laws of Incorporation.

"6. Amendment of laws affecting incorporation.—That the laws of many of the States should be so amended as to increase the capitalization requirement for corporations intending to carry on the business of health and accident insurance. This field is now overcrowded, and to properly protect the insuring public, incorporations of this character should be discouraged—not encouraged."

A number of other interesting papers were read at the convention.

INQUIRY FOR HARDWOODS AND MARBLE

In connection with the large addition to the offices of the Hamburg-America Line in Hamburg, Canadian Trade Commissioner C. F. Just, Hamburg, is endeavoring to interest Canadian exporters of marble and hardwoods.

The new building is to be a very ornate structure, and when Commissioner Just suggested to the Director-General that Canadian products could probably be used to advantage in its construction, he at once requested that samples should be forwarded. In the line of woods to be used, birdseye and curly maple would probably be most desirable for interior finishing. Canadian limestone and serpentine marbles could be utilized for the entrance and stairways.

Samples of marbles, in rectangular slabs half an inch thick and a foot square, together with specimens of hardwoods, might be sent to Mr. Just's office, giving f.o.b. Montreal.

NEGRO AND INDIAN MORTALITY

Synopsis of Results of Medico-Actuarial Mortality Investigation

The second volume of the Medico-Actuarial Mortality investigation deals briefly with the mortality among negroes and also among North American Indians. The negroes were divided into two classes:—

- A—Teachers and other professional men.
- B—All other colored men.

The mortality was measured by the average experience of the forty-three companies in the investigation. This standard table was prepared from the experience on average lives accepted at the regular rates of premiums by the insurance companies, and is known as the M. A. mortality table. The expected deaths are calculated by that table, which takes account of the age at entry and the duration of the policy. When the ratio of actual to expected deaths is 137 per cent. it means that the mortality is 37 per cent. greater than the normal mortality experienced by the companies on risks accepted at the regular rate of premium.

Mortality Higher Than Among Whites.

The following is a synopsis of the results of the investigation into the mortality among negroes:—

	Actual deaths.	Expected deaths.	Ratio of actual to expected.
Ministers, teachers and other professional men	202	147	137 %
All other colored men.....	792	540	137 %

It is evident from the foregoing that even when colored men are carefully selected by the companies the mortality is higher than among white men of the same age. The foregoing investigation was based on the experience of the companies on nearly 22,000 colored men.

North American Indians.

The companies did not insure a large number of North American Indians, the total number accepted at the regular rate of premium by all the companies during the twenty-four years (1885 to 1908) being 1,400. The following was the result:—

Actual deaths	47
Expected deaths	38
Ratio of actual to expected deaths	124 %

Notwithstanding great care in the selection of risks, the companies had a mortality among the North American Indians of twenty-four per cent. in excess of the corresponding mortality among white men.

ALBERTA'S FINANCES IN GOOD SHAPE

Hon. Arthur L. Sifton, premier of Alberta, a province that bulks large in the world's eye just now, tells *The Monetary Times* that no attempt has been made by the province to borrow new money, and, therefore, no failure has occurred in any Albertan flotation, as erroneously reported in New



HON. A. L. SIFTON
Premier of Alberta

York and other papers. It is true that a loan of in the neighborhood of \$7,000,000 fell due on July 1st. This was not renewed, but paid off by a new issue of bills at 5 3/4. No money has been borrowed by the province from any bank or individual at a higher rate than 6 per cent.

The outlook generally in Alberta is good.