

GREAT WEST INSURANCE OFFICIAL IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Mr. C. C. Ferguson, manager and actuary of the Great-West Life Assurance Company, head office, Winnipeg, was a visitor to Vancouver and Victoria last week, on business in connection with the Great-West. He was well pleased with conditions on the Coast and particularly so with the way business was going with his company in British Columbia. In conversation with the Editor, he said in part:

"In regard to Life Insurance, the one striking feature of the year's operations has been the remarkable appreciation shown by the people of Canada towards the business. As a result, practically every Company has had a large increase in new business while lapses have substantially decreased. It is the general impression that mortality claims due to the war, have not been so heavy this year as in 1916, but the amounts paid in this way to the soldiers' dependents have been so large that the insurance fraternity have reason to be proud of the contribution they have thus been able to make. Most companies continue their practice adopted at the outbreak of war of not requiring any extra premiums in respect to policies which were then in force.

"The life insurance companies will be large subscribers to the Victory Loan and all head office officials appreciate fully the action of their agents in entering so enthusiastically on the loan campaign as committeemen and canvassers. It is obvious that a trained body of canvassers can in this way perform an important public service.

"Owing to the high prices obtainable for grain and the good crops which have on the average been harvested, the prairie provinces are undoubtedly prosperous and this will have an accelerating effect on the growing prosperity which is clearly noticeable in British Columbia.

"The Great-West Life Insurance Company has always had a large business in this province and during 1917, it has been larger than ever. Mr. J. A. Johnson is the Company's manager at Vancouver, and arrangements have just been completed whereby he will have a general supervision over the whole province, though of course, the Company will still maintain its office at Victoria."

GUARDIAN CASUALTY OF UTAH IN LIQUIDATION.

The Coast Review of San Francisco, in the last issue, states that the Guardian Casualty & Guaranty Company of Salt Lake City, Utah, has gone into voluntary liquidation. The article goes on to state that the paid up capital, as of January 1st last, was \$300,000, and net surplus was \$31,410. There was a loss incurred of \$111,716 in surplus for the year 1916.

The Company wrote mostly Workmens Compensation business, from which they received premiums in 1915 amounting to \$653,959, and in 1916, \$858,822. The article further states that the annual statement shows an underwriting loss of \$110,857 for 1916.

Messrs. A. S. Matthew & Co., of Vancouver, the provincial attorneys in an advertisement state that the Continental Casualty Company of Chicago, have received a license from the Dominion Government under the new Insurance Act and have entered into a contract with the Guardian Casualty Company, whereby all the business of the latter has been re-insured and guaranteed by the Continental Company, and that Mr. A. S. Matthew, head of the above named agency, has been appointed manager and chief agent for Canada.

The office of A. S. Matthew & Company have informed this Journal that the Guardian Fire Insurance Company of Salt Lake City, recently admitted to British Columbia, is not affected by the liquidation of the Guardian Casualty, although it is understood that both are owned and controlled by the same interests.

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INSURANCE NOTICE.

The Pacific States Fire Insurance Company, Limited, has ceased to carry on business in British Columbia, having reinsured all its outstanding insurance contracts in the province with the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited. The company has applied to Minister of Finance for release of securities under the Insurance Act on February 1st.

AMERICAN DONATION TO CANADIAN RED CROSS.

It is sometimes said there is no sentiment in business, but it is time that, these days particularly, sentiment plays a very large part in business. And when sentiment tends to draw allied nations still closer together it is, perhaps, the very best kind of business.

An experience with this kind of sentiment came to the notice of the land department of the Canadian Pacific Railway at Calgary a short time ago. Mr. W. G. Fraser, of the moral training station at San Francisco, had a balance of fifty dollars coming to him on a land transaction with the Company. As Mr. Fraser is now lined up with Uncle Sam's fighting forces he desired that the money should go to some patriotic purpose, and wrote the C.P.R. asking them to turn it over to the Canadian Red Cross. He might, of course, have had it paid direct to him, or to some American patriotic society, but he elected that it should go to the Canadian Red Cross, which a few days ago received a cheque for the amount.