

The Chronicle

Insurance & Finance.

R. WILSON-SMITH,
Proprietor.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881.

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY.

VOL. XXIV. No. 24

MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1904.

SINGLE COPY . . . 10c.
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION . . . \$2.00

Information Wanted.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association has issued a circular to its members, in which they are asked "to provide information as indicated on the enclosed form," which form reads as follows:—

FIRE INSURANCE. No. 46

Amount of insurance carried, - - - - \$

Average rate of premium, per \$1000 - \$

This form requires no signature. Kindly fill in amounts, and return to Manufacturers' Association, Toronto.

The information it is stated will be treated as strictly confidential. It seems very peculiar indeed that such a form should require no authentication by a signature. The information sent will be very crude indeed, and very misleading as it will not discriminate between any class of risks. The underwriters would be only too glad of information from the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, that would enable them to conduct business at a less cost, more especially the cost of such heavy losses as those from which they have recently suffered. Friendly, business like conferences between the underwriters and the Manufacturers' Association will be far more profitable all round than any other course, certainly will do more service than irritating accusations and recriminations.

A number of Toronto merchants
An Outspoken invited Mr. Edward Atkinson, to ad-
Expert on dress them in regard to the insurance
Conflagrations, situation. Their invitation was de-
clined in a letter which is particularly
outspoken. Mr. Atkinson says:—"The recent con-
flagrations are the normal results of the continued
neglect of the owners and occupants of the buildings
in the congested districts of cities to take suitable
measures for the prevention of loss by fire by adopt-
ing safer methods of construction and suitable care
in occupancy. These conflagrations are but the

normal results, long anticipated, recurring with in-
creasing frequency, as they will continue to recur
until the owners and occupants of the buildings give
even a moderate attention to their own duty, to their
own property.

The larger part of such buildings have been con-
structed without the slightest attention being given to
the danger of the rapid spread of fire; in very many
cases they supply examples of what I have called "the
art of combustible architecture," which seems to
have been conducted as if owner, architect and builder
alike were providing for the largest possible loss by
fire from the least possible cause, and in most cases
the occupancy is marked by neglect of the common-
est precautions for safety.

Under recent conditions of heavy losses the fire
insurance companies have of necessity advanced the
rates of premium. This advance has been so much
resisted, and is as yet so insufficient, to meet the
increasing hazard of conflagration, that several of
the foreign companies are largely reducing their
risks; and the penalty has at length fallen where it
belongs—on the owners and occupants of property
in the congested districts of cities. They will be no
longer able to buy contracts of indemnity at less than
cost.

Under these conditions they may at length learn
that the fault lies with them, and that the only remedy
rests with themselves."

The protection of the audiences of
theatres has engaged great attention
since the Iroquois fire at Chicago. The
Protection provision of adequate means of exit by
of Theatre more and wider doors opening outward-
Audiences: ly, wider stairways, outside ladders and a stage
curtain to stop a fire from reaching the audience, have
been chiefly considered and in some theatres enforced.
The mayor of New York has gone a step further
by signing an ordinance passed by the Board of