

fires. Fifteen miles of the Yukon telegraph line have been destroyed.

A chemical engine has been purchased by the town of Canora, Sask.

At a recent meeting of the Council of Weston, Ont., the Reeve read Judge Macmahon's judgment in the suit brought by the Equity Fire Insurance Company to recover the sum of \$10,000, lent the municipality in 1907, the legality of which loan had been questioned. The matter was not discussed further, as the solicitor to the village is dealing with the matter.

A change for the better has been effected in the removal of the Canadian head office of the Norwich Union Fire Company from 38 Wellington East to 12 and 14 Wellington East, Toronto, which the company has purchased for the better, that is, in the matter of greater space and better light. The interior of the new premises, 60 feet front by 66 feet deep, has been entirely rebuilt, the stairway and elevators of fire-proof construction, with metal sashes and iron surroundings. Part of the ground floor front is devoted to the office of the manager, Mr. J. B. Laidlaw, and a reception room for agents. The city agents occupy a room in the northwest corner. There is abundant vault room on every floor. The company occupies the whole of the ground flat. Parts of upper floor are to be tenanted by the Phoenix of Hartford, the Maryland Casualty Company and the Victoria Harbor Lumber Co.

SOME RECENT FIRES.

Almonte, Ont.—House of Mr. A. C. Gilmour practically destroyed.

Ancaster, Ont.—John Lyon's barn burned. Loss, \$3,000; insurance, \$2,000.

Milltown, Ont.—Pennock's grist mill burned. Loss about \$4,000, partially insured.

Lindsay, Ont.—Sawmills of the John Carew Lumber Company damaged to extent of \$14,000.

London, Ont.—James Hulbert's residence, 416 Ottawa Avenue; damaged to extent of about \$400.

Paris, Ont.—House and furniture of David Crichton burned. Loss \$3,000, with small insurance.

Belleville, Ont.—Residence of Joseph Tebworth on St. Charles Street, near Albert College, destroyed. Loss, \$1,000; covered by insurance.

Victoria, B.C.—Three machine shops of Victoria Machinery Company totally destroyed; damage, \$180,000; insurance, \$30,000.

St. Catharines, Ont.—Residence of Mr. Walter McGibbon, city tax collector, No. 17 York Street, damaged to extent of about \$350.

Owen Sound, Ont.—Nichol Bros' sawmill destroyed. J. Wright & Sons oatmeal mill seriously damaged. The loss estimated at over \$12,000, half of which is on the mill; insurance, \$2,000.

Quebec.—Chateau Frontenac damaged to extent of about \$10,000. Caused by defective wiring.

Milton, Ont.—Robert Brown's house destroyed. Loss about \$2,500, partially covered by insurance in the Bay of Quinte Company. Caused by coal oil stove exploding.

Saskatoon, Sask.—Booth's bakery on Fourth Avenue partially destroyed. Loss on building and materials about \$2,000.

Mount Forest, Ont.—A. G. Bishop's sawmill at Conn, about seven miles distant, completely destroyed. Loss \$4,000; insurance \$1,000.

Listowel, Ont.—Mrs. F. Rogers' house damaged to extent of about \$500. Loss on contents \$300; insured.

Toronto.—James A. Thompson's drug store, 55 West Queen Street, damaged to extent of \$700; fully covered by insurance.

Sidney Crossing, Ont.—Residence occupied by Mr. Rupert and owned by Mr. Duffin, of Belleville, destroyed with contents. No insurance.

Hamilton, Ont.—Hamilton Steel & Iron Company gutted. Loss estimated at between \$3,000 and \$4,000. Supposed cause, defective wiring.

Vancouver.—Empress Manufacturing Company, Homer Street, destroyed. Loss about \$70,000, with insurance of \$42,000.

Bancroft, Ont.—Brown block destroyed, in which were situated Robert Fair's hardware store, R. Thompson's flour and feed store, and restaurant conducted by the Ladies' Aid of the Anglican Church. Losses about \$15,000, partially insured.

Oshawa, Ont.—Stable and driving house belonging to Mr. George Bloomfield's bakery destroyed. The fire is believed to have been caused by an incendiary. Loss estimated at about \$1,000.

St. Johns, Que.—Outbuildings of Mr. J. Donaghy's coal and wood premises at the southeast end of Richelieu Street damaged to extent of about \$5,000.

RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE COMPANY.

As was briefly noted last week, the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company, of London, England, has published its report for the year ended 31st December, 1907, together with a statement of accounts.

The total premium income of the company was \$1,905,750. The following figures illustrate the satisfactory progress made during the year:—

	1906.	1907.
Gross premium income	\$1,716,460	\$1,905,750
Interest from investments	85,685	92,345
Total income	1,802,145	1,998,095
Payment of claims	930,980	1,025,400

There are several points of particular interest in these figures. First, it will be noted that although last year generally speaking, was a bad one from the investment point of view, the interest from the company's investments increased by almost \$10,000, showing a wise managerial discretion. Then again, despite the increase in the amounts disbursed in respect of claims, the proportion of the gross premium income in 1906 was 54.23, while only 53.80 in 1907. The reserve fund, a most important item in any company's accounts, has been strengthened with \$25,000. Last week, were printed figures giving the premium income in Canada at \$8,703, with losses aggregating \$1,696. This naturally was not the total Canadian business, but represented only the company's figures for sickness insurance in Canada during the year. The company carries on guarantee, accident, sickness, and employer's liability business in the Dominion. The total Canadian income last year amounted to \$60,000, with losses aggregating \$14,000.

The Workman's Compensation Act, which came into force on July 1st, 1907, led to a great expansion of business in employer's liability insurance in England. Mr. F. H. Russell, of Toronto, is managing the Canadian business which continues to progress most satisfactorily under his direction.

FIRE AGENTS MEET.

The first Ontario convention of the Local Fire Insurance Agents' Association was held on Wednesday, 17th June, at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto. A good number of agents from various parts of the province were present. Strong views were expressed as to the unfairness of the companies from which so heavy deposits are exacted by the Dominion Government, having no protection from that Government against underground insurance in Canada by unlicensed American companies. One man said: "It is a startling fact that the Canadian manufacturer who is so ready to seek fire insurance protection from unlicensed concerns is the first man to hold up his hands at the invasion of his territory by any foreign competitor, and he is the first man to protest most violently to the Government and demand a high import duty on all goods coming from the very country where he places so much of his 'underground' insurance."

Officers were elected as follows at the evening session: President, S. C. Young, Fort William; First Vice-President, O. L. Steele, Port Colborne; Second Vice-President, W. B. Stephens, Owen Sound; Secretary-Treasurer, Neil Campbell, Arnprior; Executive Committee, George Menzies (Owen Sound), C. E. Anderson (Dunnville), A. K. Bunnell (Brantford), J. G. Gangier (Windsor), B. P. Dewar (Ottawa); Auditors, Messrs. Douglas and Stewart, Ottawa. The Agency Review, issued by the Association, is edited by the Secretary, Neil Campbell.

Sovereign Bank of Canada

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of the shareholders of this Bank will be held at the Head Office, 28 King Street West, Toronto, on

Tuesday, the 14th day of July next,

for the election of directors, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the meeting. The chair will be taken at twelve o'clock noon.

By order of Board.

F. G. JEMMETT,
General Manager

Toronto, 27th May, 1908.