

THE SITUATION WHEN PEACE COMES.

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United States Shipping Board, to the Illinois Manufacturers Association. He said:—

"While vigorous prosecution of the war is the paramount interest of the nation now, we cannot afford to wait until peace is declared before beginning preparations for the wise employment of the enormous new merchant marine which is being augmented at a rate of one and two ships a day. The country looks to the manufacturers to find work for those ships after the war. The more vigorously we fight the war, the more tonnage we shall have at our disposal when peace is declared. I believe that wise foresight now in utilizing this tonnage after the war, to develop our own world trade, and develop trade and industry in other countries, particularly the smaller and younger nations, will be a direct help to winning the war, not a hindrance. The American manufacturer, banker, and business man generally may well begin to-day to think in terms of world markets. When peace comes we shall find ourselves with an enormous mercantile marine on hand, as well as a ship-manufacturing industry of magnitude unlike anything that has hitherto existed. Success in employing that merchant marine hangs squarely upon manufacturing efficiency."

ONTARIO FIRE RECORD.

Fire Marshal E. P. Heaton, Toronto, in his official monthly statements of fires in Ontario, under his jurisdiction, states that there were only two fires in the month of June exceeding the sum of \$20,000. The first was the disastrous Pembroke conflagration which involved a total fire loss of \$327,534. The second was in the flour and feed mill of J. S. Fisher, Barrie, which involved a loss of \$59,000.

In the month of July Pembroke sustained another serious fire. The fire marshal states that in each of these two serious fires, the waterworks failed, and suggests that the whole fire-fighting appliances and water protection need immediate and careful revision. This is a serious condition of affairs. We understand that the attention of Mr. J. Grove Smith of the conservation Commission has been directed to the matter.

During the month of June, 954 fires occurred in Ontario, of this number no less than 587 are recorded as fires in dwellings, 119 in farm barns; 83 mercantile stores; 39 manufacturing and special hazards; 36 stables, sheds and outhouses (not farm risks); 12 office and bank buildings; 9 hotels and boarding houses; 8 churches; 8 railway risks; 7 elevator and grain risks; 7 schools, colleges, hospitals and libraries, the balance are pretty evenly distributed among other risks.

The analysis of causes of fire, gives 209 from lightning in buildings not rodged, two from lightning in buildings rodged; 76 unknown; 73 matches; 65 caused by sparks arising from combustion; 50 sparks on roofs, from whatever cause; 49 exposure; 37 electricity; 38 stoves, furnaces,

etc., 18 chimney flues, etc., and the balances from various causes as specified in report.

The number of fires recorded in June 1917, was 682 compared with 954 in June, 1918; insurance loss in June, 1917, was \$310,742 as compared with \$629,818 in June, 1918. The total insurance loss in Ontario for the first six months of 1917 was \$4,483,212 as against \$5,707,609 for the same period in 1918.

The fact that so many people believe that fires must happen, and do not realize that at least two-thirds of them are preventable, makes it hard to arouse the public generally to the necessity of their prevention. While great stress should be laid upon the prevention of fires, the importance of being prepared to put out fires when they start should not be minimized. Each city and town should be furnished with the necessary fire apparatus and trained firemen, and special attention should be paid not only to the fire department, but also to the water supply, and arrangements for sending in alarms in case of fire. The many losses brought about by the assured for gain in Ontario and elsewhere are largely preventable by the companies and their representatives by proper vigilance, and thorough efficiency of agents against over-insurance, and the reckless placing of risks. If there is no over-insurance than there is no profit in burning.

PALATINE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Palatine Insurance Company, Limited, established in 1900 occupies an influential position among younger British fire offices. At December 31st last, its fire fund with the balance on profit and loss account totalled \$3,112,690, a substantial increase of nearly \$300,000. In addition to this amount there is a paid up capital of \$1,000,000, making a total security to policyholders of \$4,112,690. While occupying this strong financial position it is well known that the Palatine has the great advantage of close association with the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Limited, so that holders of its policies have the comfortable assurance that behind the ample specific security of their policies lie the immense resources and security of the Commercial Union, amounting to over \$159,000,000.

Net premium income last year amounted to \$2,896,595, an advance of \$330,460 upon 1916. Losses were \$1,531,145, showing a ratio to premiums of 52.8 per cent., a much more favourable record than 1916, when the loss ratio figured 63.4 per cent. of premiums. The total assets of the Palatine as at 31st December, 1917, amounted to \$5,476,985, an increase of \$643,360 during the year.

In the Canadian field, the Palatine has influential connections under the management of Mr. James McGregor and Mr. W. S. Jopling, assistant manager. Its Canadian premium income in 1917 amounted to nearly \$300,000 as compared with \$276,444 in the preceding year. Net losses incurred amounted to \$172,674. The company's high prestige and liberal treatment of policyholders assure it a steady increase in business throughout the Dominion.