



## PROMINENT FIRE INSURANCE OFFICIAL ON VISIT

Mr. L. Goldman, president and managing director of the North American Life Assurance Co., head office, Toronto, was a recent visitor to British Columbia on a trip through Western Canada, in which he sought to see conditions for himself, visit his agency forces and avail himself of a pleasant but short holiday on the Coast, to recover from the severe rigors of an exceptionally severe Toronto winter. This is the first visit of Mr. Goldman in four years and he was much impressed by the changes noted, and again delighted in the climate of Victoria and Vancouver. He was especially impressed with the progressiveness of Vancouver and thought as an example that the window display of Granville and Hastings Streets merchants was superior to that of large Eastern Canadian cities.

The experience of the North American Life in British Columbia, Mr. Goldman stated, was particularly happy-Mr. Goldman, who next year will have completed fifty years residence in Canada, the great bulk of which was with the North American Life, had experienced boom conditions elsewhere than on the Coast in consequence of which his loans in British Columbia were gauged on a very conservative basis, with the result that the company has sustained no loss in either principal or interest in their mortgage investments.

Speaking on the subject of life insurance underwriting Mr. Goldman was very optimistic and expected that for some time in the future heavy underwriting would be the rule and the experience of all life insurance companies. This condition was the result of a number of circumstances all leading to increased business. The first reason, he stated, was the high cost of living, which made it necessary for a man to increase his life insurance for the sake of his beneficiaries to approximate the depreciation in the dollar.

The banks also were encouraging their borrowers to take on insurance for the better protection of both the banks and their customers. Banks would not loan on goods except when covered by a fire insurance policy, and now they are beginning to see the wisdom of insuring continuity of their clients' businesses through life insurance policies.

When a man dies the common fact is that he is usually short of cash assets which may involve the sacrifice of other assets for the payment of succession duties. It is becoming more and more the common practice for insurance to be taken out to cover these costs.

A great factor in the increase in insurance underwriting is the popularity of insurance through the evidence of its benefit during the recent epidemic. The wives and children of policy holders taken away on account of the epidemic were kept from suffering pecuniary hardship by the payment of policies to them from insurance companies. All received tangible evidence of the benefit of life insur ance to the community in general and to the family in particular.

Curiously enough, Mr. Goldman stated that the very extravagance of the people was a factor in life underwriting. Business men were more and more appreciating the value of insurance to their estates as they never had before and were depending more and more on this to sustain their families when death came.

Mr. Goldman was accompanied by the company treasurer, Mr. C. W. Strathy, who for the past thirteen years has had charge of the loan department of the company.

