

benefit and not on benefit, and the relations of income and expenditure, would all be widely different in a year of normal unemployment and still more different at a time of depression. The actual number of claims made would also, it may be presumed, be greater. One of the most striking features, however, of the experience recorded is that the number of claims, even in a time of prosperity, should be so great.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT OF SHORT DURATION.

In a large proportion of the cases the period of unemployment has been of short duration. An analysis of the total unemployment represented by a large number of the claims received during the three months shows that thirty per cent. of that unemployment fell within the "waiting week," sixty-two per cent. was covered by benefit, seven per cent. was excluded from benefit by various disqualifications, and one per cent. represented unemployment continued after the exhaustion of benefit. The report says:

The good state of trade during the past year has contributed perhaps more than any other single fact to making it administratively possible to launch the scheme of unemployment insurance at all....The circumstances of the past year have not been such as to put any real strain upon the scheme itself and the benefits provided under it. On the question of how far the benefits of this scheme will go towards preventing distress from unemployment, in bad times as in good, judgment must for the present be suspended. The next depression of trade will show.

The report, the tone of which can hardly be described as optimistic, closes with the reflection that "the depression that must come in due course will not find the country wholly unprepared."

#### MONTREAL'S FIRE CHIEF WANTS LIMITATION OF INSURANCE.

A report recommending the passage of legislation prohibiting the carrying of insurance to the extent of more than 80 per cent. of the value insured and asking for the appointment of some thirty-seven inspectors to enforce the regulations of the fire department has been submitted to the Board of Control by Chief Tremblay, of the Montreal Fire Department. The report was made as a result of the request for an adequate system of inspection, made by the joint committee on fire prevention, composed of members of the Board of Trade, Chambre de Commerce, the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, the Montreal Builders' Exchange and the Association of Architects of the Province of Quebec.

Chief Tremblay says he has reached the conclusion that in 50 per cent. of the fires of incendiary origin the property was insured beyond its value. It should be forbidden, the report continues, to insure a property for more than 80 per cent. of the value. It is admittedly well nigh impossible for insurance companies to see that this is done, but a solemn declaration should be required of the person desiring a policy, this declaration being to the effect that the insurance asked is not more than 80 per cent. of the value.

How this is going to prevent arson THE CHRONICLE fails to see. Obviously, it will do nothing to stop removal of goods prior to a deliberate fire, and, in any case, any one bent on arson is hardly likely to be stopped from pursuing it by the necessity of lying a little more than at present about it.

#### ACQUISITION EXPENSE OF LIABILITY BUSINESS.

An important conference called by Superintendent Emmett, of New York, has been held at Chicago this week in regard to the expenses of liability and workmen's compensation business. As a result of the conference, the following report of a committee recommending the modification of Mr. Emmett's recent acquisition expense direction was adopted:—

In workmen's compensation states the acquisition expense on workmen's compensation and employers' liability business shall be not more than seventeen and a half (17½) per cent.;

In other States the acquisition expense on employers' liability business shall be not more than twenty (20) per cent.;

In all States the acquisition expense on all liability business other than workmen's compensation and employers' liability shall be not more than twenty-five (25) per cent.; except that on employers' liability business in the Rocky Mountain zone, embracing the States of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Idaho an acquisition expense of not more than twenty-five (25) per cent. may be permitted.

We also respectfully submit to the careful consideration of all concerned the serious and fundamental objections which may well be urged against the fixing of acquisition expense by departmental rulings.

Superintendent Emmett accepted this report and his order will be modified accordingly.

#### BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. John McKeen, until recently manager of the Halifax branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia and secretary to the Board of Directors, has retired on pension.

At the request of the directors, Mr. H. A. Fleming, who formerly filled Mr. McKeen's position in Halifax for many years, but who during the past three years has been manager of the Toronto branch of the bank, has returned to Halifax to take up his former position there.

He is succeeded in Toronto by Mr. C. H. Easson, who was in the service of the Bank of Nova Scotia for 25 years and left them to accept the position of general manager of the Bank of New Brunswick. The amalgamation of those two banks brought him again into the service of the Bank of Nova Scotia.

#### PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

The death occurred on the 3rd instant of Mr. D. R. Jack, St. John, N.B., a well-known insurance man. Mr. Jack represented the North British & Mercantile for the past 29 years, succeeding his father, who formerly represented the same company for many years.

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We regret to learn of the serious illness of Mr. David Burke. Both as general manager of the Royal-Victoria Life and formerly as Canadian manager of the New York Life, Mr. Burke earned the high esteem of the Canadian life insurance fraternity, and the turn of events in the present circumstances will be waited with much concern.