

Following the reinsurance of the casualty business of the People's Surety Company in the United States Casualty, comes the announcement of its disposal of its surety business, and the company will doubtless shortly retire, making one less competitor in the field.

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Plate-glass insurance brokers are sending out a piteous moan over the fact that their commissions on and after April 1st will not exceed a maximum of 25 per cent.

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From the far West comes the news that the Ohio Farmers' Insurance Company, of Leroy, Ohio, hitherto a very successful but conservative company, will enter New York State for business, and that W. L. Perrin & Son will represent it in the Metropolitan district. The company is a strong one, although conducted on the mutual basis.

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An arrangement has been made whereby the well-known firm of Kelly & Fuller are to become the United States Representatives of the Law, Fidelity & General Insurance Corporation, of London, beginning with April 1st.

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During the month of February, the New York Life paid to beneficiaries the great sum of \$4,141,293, or at the rate of nearly \$50,000,000 per year.

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United States Manager Chas. Lyman Case, of the London Assurance Corporation, recently returned from a business trip to the Pacific Coast, and has now departed for Cuba in the interests of his company.

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Col. Alex. H. Wray, of the Commercial Union, has recently returned from an extended tour in the West.

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Among recent sojourners in California, were the well-known general agents of this city, Messrs. Wallace Reid and Samuel R. Weed.

QUERIST.

New York, April 5, 1911.



From Western Fields.

Seeding Beginning—Immigrants in British Columbia
—A Warning against Over-Speculation—Alberta's Timber Resources,

Reports collected from various districts through the West show that, generally speaking, seeding will be well under way during the coming week. Estimates of increased acreage in different districts are 10 to 60 p.c. over the acreage of last year. A feature in the Medicine Hat district is the heavy seeding of flax, over 7,000 bushels having been sold for seeding within a radius of 30 miles of the city, which means that fully 15,000 acres will be cropped. Weather conditions are generally reported as satisfactory, splendid soakage having been experienced.

Immigrants in British Columbia.

British immigrants have been pouring into Vancouver at the rate of about 100 per day for the past two weeks, say officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company at Vancouver. It is stated that about 1,400 settlers have arrived in Vancouver from the British Isles within the past two weeks, the

majority of them bound for sections near the city, with many also having Prince Rupert and points on Vancouver Island as their destinations. Nearly all these newcomers are claimed to be people of a certain amount of means, and well able to take up land at once. The agricultural possibilities of British Columbia are asserted to be the drawing card, as contrary to the rule in past years the immigrants for the most part are farmers, not artisans.

A Warning against Over-Speculation.

Sir Edward Tennant, entertained at luncheon at Vancouver recently, pointed out in a subsequent address, that owing to the railway building going on in the province, there was real estate speculation and an extraordinary increase of values. "But such conditions," continued Sir Edward, "will not always continue, and the investor looking for a permanent return for his money, and not a mere turnover at a profit, takes into account something more than superficial conditions which exist here to-day. These conditions under these circumstances are natural, but they carry with them certain dangers and responsibilities which are easily overlooked in prosperous times. I have visited some of the outlying districts of your city, and I hope that your scheme of town planning will give light, air and fire safety. In a new city you have every opportunity of avoiding the faults which have arisen in the Old Country, and which we are now attempting to correct. Here there is ample room for all, but you have put so high a value on your land that you are beginning to frighten people away. I gather that a large part of the city is existing on real estate speculation. It is an easy way of making money, and far less trouble than running a business, and gives greater returns, but it can be carried to excess, and it seems to me only right to suggest to you to see that it is not carried too far."

Alberta's Timber Resources.

Statistics compiled by Paul A. Vonaueberg, of Edmonton, show that in 1910 there were 56,577,000 feet of board measure of lumber manufactured in Alberta, for which the Government received \$64,800 in ground rentals and royalties. The average selling price per 1,000 feet in Calgary district was \$14.81 and in Edmonton \$15.90. The increase in cut over the year 1909 was 20 per cent., while the increase in lumber imported from British Columbia was 30 per cent. On this basis of increase he figures that the forests in the province will have been consumed by 1918, the theory being that there is a total yield at present of 500,000,000 feet board measure. A proper protection of the northern woods would require 100 men, and he estimates the annual cost of such precaution at \$225,000.

Confusion in Peace River Land Deals.

A number of large deals recently negotiated for lands in the interior of British Columbia will have to be called off as a result of an order made by the Government, doubling the price of lands which various concerns are seeking to obtain from the Government. It has been estimated that 8,000,000 acres of Peace River lands have been disposed of, mostly in Vancouver, since the first of the year. The retroactive aspect of the new regulation will be felt by hundreds of people who have staked lands during the past year. Large interests