

In view of the above provision that the policy would be "indisputable on any ground whatever," and, in view of the fact that Pettigrew's death occurred after the policy had been in force for more than a full year, it was strongly argued that, even if the policy were a wagering policy, the Company could not dispute its liability on account of the above clause, but this argument was disposed of by the Court in the following words:—

The clause by which the Company stipulated that this policy would not be disputed after one year does not help the plaintiff's case. Private interest must give way to public interest. The stipulation itself is contrary to law and public order. The Company's position in this case is certainly not a deserving one, but a defence like theirs to an action of this nature is allowed, not for the sake of the defendant, but of the law itself. There can be no waiver of such an objection.—  
The Economic World.

**RIOT INSURANCE.**

Are we to have industrial trouble as a concomitant of Peace? Many persons hold that after the war abroad our own war will commence at home, and point to strikes and threats to strike in many labor circles as plain evidence of trouble ahead. But in the very early days of the war similar gloomy prognostications abounded, and the result was the passage of the Courts (Emergency Powers) Act. The predictions of widespread unemployment, however, were entirely falsified. It is quite possible that history will be again repeated, and that the future will give us Peace in every truth. Still, it is advisable to take heed of all possibilities, and riot and civil commotion insurance is a matter that should not be overlooked by the prudent owner of property. The companies are anticipating the demand for such cover, and the Eagle, Star and British Dominions and the British Oak have both issued policies covering risk of damage caused by persons taking part in labor disturbances.—Policy Holder.

**HEALTH AND MATERNITY INSURANCE FOR NEW YORK.**

Governor Smith's (of New York State) annual message to the Legislature contained this statement relative to health and maternity insurance:

"Nothing is so devastating in the life of the worker's family as sickness. The incapacity of the wage earner because of illness is one of the underlying causes of poverty. Now the worker and his family bear this burden alone. The enactment of a Health Insurance Law which I strongly urge, will remedy this unfair condition. Moreover, it will result in greater precautions being taken to prevent illness and disease, and to eliminate the consequent waste to the State therefrom. It will lead to the adoption of wider measures of public health and hygiene, and it will operate to conserve human life. The large percentage of physical disability disclosed by the draft shows how deeply concerned the State is in this matter. Proper provision also should be made for maternity insurance in the interest of posterity and of the race. Other countries are far ahead of us in this respect, and their experience has demonstrated the practical value and economic soundness of these principles."

**THE "FLU" RAVAGES.**

It is estimated by the New York Journal of Commerce that over 120,000 lives of insured people have died in the United States from the Flu. Their insurance claims amount to over \$52,408,000.

These figures represent the death claims from October 1 to December 24, which are known to have resulted from influenza or pneumonia, and many companies in reporting have stated that their figures are likely to be largely increased when their claim records are completed.

The losses to the great life companies have been enormous, as will be seen from the table, one company, the Metropolitan Life, reporting no less than seventy-five thousand death claims calling for payments totaling about \$15,000,000.

**NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE CO.**

Received business for December, 1918, amounted to over \$1,700,000, the largest in the history of the company; while the total amount of the applications received during 1918 amounted to over \$14,700,000, an increase of 16 per cent over last year.

The Nalaco Cup contest closed for the year with British Columbia agency winners under Manager E. W. Keenleyside. They hold the Cup during 1919.

H. W. Slipchenko, Saskatoon; A. R. Piper, Moose Jaw and J. A. Collins, Edmonton, led in personal production during December.

**APPRECIATION OF FIRE PREVENTION CAMPAIGN.**

The Maritime Branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association at a recent meeting in Amherst, N.S., passed a resolution recording their appreciation of the work being carried on by the Commission of Conservation in attempting to arouse public opinion to the seriousness of Canada's fire losses and in assisting municipalities and other bodies by means of technical advice respecting fire-prevention measures.

The Association also memorialized the Governments of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island to appoint provincial fire marshals to investigate fires, prosecute incendiaries and inspect properties for the removal of fire-breeding conditions.

**INSURANCE IN 1918.**

The following review of the "worst" year in modern insurance appears in the "Monetary Times."

General opinion is that the year 1918 has been the worst year on record in the history of modern life insurance. This is the result of the unusually heavy losses arising from war casualties on the one hand and deaths from influenza on the other. In many cases the full mortality rate will be experienced, something which has never happened before. The war casualties were almost as large as last year, and the addition of the deaths from influenza brought about the unprecedented result. Expenses of management have, at the same time, increased. On the other hand, good investments have been available at much more favorable rates than was ever the case before with life insurance companies in Canada. An unusually large proportion of life insurance funds have, therefore, been invested in government and municipal bonds, with the result that this branch of the business has been placed upon a higher plane.

In fire insurance, losses have also been extraordinarily high. The addition of the whole financial and business community in Canada has now been directed to our heavy fire losses and methods for preventing them. It is uncertain yet as to whether the remedy will be found through individual initiative, through fire insurance companies or by government action. Experiments have already been made with both of the latter. The province of Ontario and the western provinces have organized fire prevention departments, and, in the case of Ontario and British Columbia, fire prevention leagues have been formed to co-operate with the fire marshal. As has already become evident, fire insurance losses do not fall merely upon the insurance companies, for these merely fix their rates according to the losses, and the premium payer, in turn, regards his insurance as an element in the cost of production. Accordingly, whether the insurance is paid on private dwelling or on industrial plant, the loss finally falls upon the consumer.

The results in the hail insurance business are reported to be quite satisfactory, but the municipal funds did not come out very well. Accident policies have become increasingly liberal, and the field between life and accident insurance has been gradually narrowed. Workmen's compensation insurance remains in an unsettled state; a uniform basis for provincial action has not been discovered, nor on the other hand has the view that government entrance into this branch of insurance is advisable, been generally dispelled.

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Life Fund, and Special Trust Funds . . . . . 73,045,450  
Total Annual Income Exceeds . . . . . 57,000,000  
Total Funds Exceed . . . . . 159,000,000  
Total Fire Losses Paid . . . . . 204,667,570  
Deposit with Dominion Government . . . . . 1,323,333  
(As at 31st December, 1917.)

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