WAR WORK OF BRITISH FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE.

The British Fire Prevention Committee has done excellent work since the outbreak of the war. It then formed a special fire survey force of 100 surveyors to undertake at short notice fire surveys required by the Government, in an honorary capacity. Over 900 establishments taken over for war emergency work all over the country were surveyed by this force, with a total of over 40,000 beds. Latterly re-surveys are made in case of special fire risk. The Committee's warning service embraced the preparation and free issue of a large number of public "fire warnings" in connection with the war emergency, disseminated by the committee in the form of posters, circular letters, or as notices. The special class of risk under review, for which special notices were issued, embraced hospitals, convalescent homes, refugee hotels, schools, billets, factories and farms, for each of which a separate form of warning was prepared. whilst aircraft hazards were dealt with on general lines. The total issue of posters, etc., exceeds 200,000. The work of the committee has been cordially received, and its technical enquiry office in particular was largely used by the public. The results of the work, it is claimed, have been far-reaching. The great care taken by the public on simple, sensible and inexpensive lines, to prevent outbreaks of fires, and to meet them with organized self-help, is extraordinary (the Committee report), and must affect the reduction of the fire loss after the war. The fire loss during the war has been substantially reduced, the number and extent of fires being materially less. Although there may have been fires in certain classes of factories and stores, due either to pressure of work, inexperienced personnel or possible incendiarism, and some of these fires have been most inconvenient, yet the result of the work, as a whole, has been most effective in preventing loss of life through fire, in the conservation of property, and in reducing the inconvenience caused by fires in war time. Indications of the appreciation of these results have not been lacking.—*London Review.*

STRICTLY NEUTRAL.

Our contemporary, the Insurance Index (American edition) is so strictly neutral, as befits an American journal, that for several months it has been carrying on a hot-shot campaign against German insurance companies doing business in the States. Here are some specimens of its ammunition:—

"There is not a single imported German insurance company doing business here that is worthy of the confidence of real Americans.

"When an agent or property owner is again tempted to pass over a premium to a German insurance company, let him remember the Lusitania.

"In addition to sentimental reasons the fact must be kept in mind that before this war is finished half of the companies in Germany will be bankrupt."

And so on. Evidently, our confrere's neutrality is of the same brand as that of another illustrious American who said he was so darned neutral that he didn't care who it was that walloped Germany.

A STATE FUND'S UNFAIR METHODS.

Vice-president J. Scofield Rowe, of the Aetna Life, has sent to Governor Whitman of New York a scathing protest against a letter recently sent out by the manager of the State insurance fund, to former subscribers to the State fund who had decided to take Aetna insurance. One paragraph of this letter said:—"All arguments against State fund insurance are wholly worthless, and in point of fact they are only conjured up for the purpose of confusing and disturbing employers in order to mulct them for agents' commissions and stockholders' profits." Mr. Rowe protests strongly against deliberately unfriendly attacks of this character upon the motives and honesty of the insurance companies, "whose protection and service are indispensable to the security and welfare of all business enterprises." Incidentally, Mr. Rowe mentions that his company is paying annually upwards of $35,000 in taxes to the state of New York, a portion of this tax money being used in defraying the expenses of the State fund, the manager of which undertakes to use such ugly words regarding the insurance companies as those quoted.

MEDICAL SERVICE COMES HIGH.

Complaints are being made in various quarters of the high cost of medical service in connection with administration of workmen's compensation acts. While it is freely acknowledged that the majority of physicians render highly skilled service at moderate cost, there is apparently a residue who consider every injured workman in the financial position of a Rockefeller or Carnegie when bills for service are to be paid for by the insurance companies or public authorities. Even the authorities in States where government schemes of workmen's compensation are in force, are taking up the question with a view to curtailing the activities of those members of the medical profession who insist on charging all that the traffic will bear.

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN ACCIDENTS DURING JULY, 1915.

Trade or Industry.	Killed.	Injured.	Total.
Agriculture	7	9	16
Fishing and hunting	3	..	3
Lumbering	3	6	9
Mining	9	30	39
Railway construction	..	1	1
Building Trades	3	11	14
Metal Trades	5	45	50
Woodworking Trades	..	5	5
Printing and allied trades	..	1	1
Textile	..	4	4
Food and tobacco preparation	2	3	5
Transportation:—			
Steam Railway Service	5	63	68
Electric Railway Service	1	3	4
Navigation	3	20	23
Miscellaneous Transport	3	15	18
Public Employees	1	5	6
Miscellaneous Skilled Trades	10	17	27
Unskilled Labour	3	16	19
Total	58	254	312

The combined life policies of John Wanamaker and his son Rodney aggregate $6,000,000.