

"Whereas, the following companies, which have done business in this province, were mutual insurance companies, were subject to inspection and to the supervision of the Provincial Treasurer, and were under the control of the Government which had the power, and whose duty it was to prevent them from doing business, if they did not offer the necessary security to their policy holders and to the public, namely: The Canada Fire, The Providence, the Jacques-Cartier, The Dominion and the Fonciere;

"Whereas, on the 6th of February, 1907, Mr. Taschereau, member for Montmorency (now Minister of Public Works and Labor), put a question to the Government whether it intended to appoint a commission to inquire into the operations and financial standing of the mutual insurance companies doing business in this province, and that the Government then replied that this matter was under consideration. Journals Legislative Assembly, 1907, page 104);

"Whereas, on the 28th of April, 1909, Honorable Mr. Weir officially stated to the House in reply to a question by Mr. D'Anjou, member for Rimouski, that he was informed: 1. That the "Canada Fire" had issued policies in which it restricted the assessments to 20 per cent. per annum on the deposit notes, and 2—That the Directors of that company had on the 10th of February, 1909, passed a resolution, changing this condition of their policies. (Journals Legislative Assembly, 1909, pp. 393 and 394);

"Whereas, during that session the Government was informed by several members during a regular sitting of the House, that different other mutual fire insurance companies were about to defraud their policy holders, that they had undertaken to obtain payment of the full amount of their deposit notes long before the term of the assurance contracts, and that they were cancelling their policies to the prejudice of policy holders;

"Whereas, the Prime Minister and Treasurer of the Province thereupon declared that they would, without delay, take all the measures requisite to protect the policy holders and the public in general;

"Whereas, during the session of 1910, the following companies were in liquidation, namely: The "Canada Fire," the "Jacques-Cartier" the "Fonciere," the "Dominion," and the "Providence";

"Whereas, the following question was then put to the Government;

"What has the Government done to protect the policy holders and the public with respect to these companies, and that the Government replied, as follows, by Sessional papers No. 35: "As the companies in liquidation have never complied with the provisions of the insur-