

MONTREAL CASUALTY UNDERWRITERS' DINNER.

Montreal casualty underwriters, together with several Toronto and New York visitors, met together on Wednesday evening at an informal dinner held at the St. Regis. The happy idea of bringing the casualty underwriters together in this way originated in a conversation by Messrs. Paul H. Boring (Fidelity and Casualty Co.), E. E. Kenyon (Guardian Accident and Guarantee Co.), and Colin E. Sword (London and Lancashire Guarantee and Accident Co.), who subsequently made themselves responsible for the organisation of the affair and were rewarded not only by the general support of Montreal casualty underwriters, but by a thoroughly representative attendance. This is the first occasion on which Montreal casualty underwriters have been able to meet in this way, and the event, it is anticipated, will be productive of considerable good in the creation of a better feeling of *esprit de corps* among those actively engaged locally in the casualty business. It may be noted that while several companies were unable to be represented at the gathering, absence in each case was due entirely to legitimate reasons and not from any want of sympathy with the object of the gathering.

Mr. H. M. Lambert, managing director of the Guardian Accident and Guarantee, filled the chair admirably. The post-prandial proceedings were quite informal in character. Two toasts only were honoured, that of "The King" and "Our Canadian Troops," the remainder of the evening being mainly devoted to an excellent musical programme, interspersed with a few brief speeches from leading underwriters on topics of particular interest to the casualty insurance fraternity.

The following is a list of the subscribers, the majority being present:—

Canada Accident Assurance Company, Messrs. T. H. Hudson, Manager, R. W. Marshall, G. A. McGowan, G. Stevenson.

Commercial Plate Glass Assurance Company, Mr. I. Crepeau, Manager.

Dominion Gresham Guarantee & Casualty Co., Messrs. F. J. Stark, General Manager, A. Kennedy, Secretary-Treasurer, F. H. Pyper.

Dominion of Canada Guarantee & Accident Insurance Co., Mr. Ed. Roberts, Provincial Manager.

Employers Liability Assurance Corporation Limited, Messrs. J. Jenkins, Montreal Manager, James Allan, H. E. Miller.

Fidelity & Casualty Company of New York, Messrs. W. A. Reid, Assistant Superintendent of Agencies, New York, Paul H. Boring, Resident Manager, P. Rainville, G. Declercq.

Globe Indemnity Company of Canada, Messrs. John Emo, General Manager, P. M. Welch, Assistant Manager.

Guarantee Company of North America, Messrs. H. E. Rawlings, Vice-President and Managing Director, W. S. Chadwick, Assistant Secretary, H. J. McKeon, R. H. Dumbrell.

Guardian Accident & Guarantee Company, Messrs. H. M. Lambert, Managing Director, E. E. Kenyon, Secretary, B. A. Page, J. U. Fletcher, A. E. Neveu.

Imperial Guarantee & Accident Insurance Co. of Canada, Messrs. Ed. Willans, Managing Director, Toronto, Geo. K. Martin, Provincial Manager, C. Brown.

Law Union & Rock Insurance Company Limited, Messrs. W. D. Aiken, Accident Superintendent, Wm. Thompson, T. P. Brown.

Lloyds Plate Glass Insurance Company, Mr. J. M. Morris, General Agent.

London & Lancashire Guarantee & Accident Co. of Canada, Messrs. Colin E. Sword, Manager, D. S. MacLeod.

Maryland Casualty Company, Messrs. A. McBean, N. T. F. Buch.

Merchants & Employers Guarantee & Accident Company, Mr. A. Desrosiers, Assistant Manager.

Mount Royal Assurance Company, Messrs. J. E. Clement, General Manager, J. R. MacDonald, J. A. Blondeau. New York Plate Glass Insurance Company, Mr. Geo. W. Picaud.

Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society Limited, Messrs. John B. Laidlaw, Manager for Canada, Toronto, John McEwen, Superintendent.

Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation Limited, Mr. A. James, Provincial Superintendent.

Provident Guarantee & Accident Company, Messrs. J. C. Gagne, General Manager, J. H. Lussler, C. E. Arpin.

Railway Passengers Assurance Company, Mr. D. K. MacDonald.

Royal Exchange Assurance, Messrs. Arthur Barry, Manager for Canada, J. A. Jessup, Manager Casualty Department.

Travelers Insurance Company, Messrs. F. F. Parkins, Chief Agent and Attorney for Canada, E. F. Hussey, J. P. Brown, C. Mott Cairns, C. Salsbury.

United States Fidelity & Guaranty Company, Messrs. W. R. Kirkpatrick, Manager, F. D. Knowles, Assistant Manager.

Mr. F. Wilson-Smith.

The following gentlemen contributed to the musical programme:—Messrs. R. H. Dumbrell, W. A. Kirkpatrick, M. M. MacAuslane (violinist), Geo. K. Martin, P. Rainville, and Harold Key (accompanist).

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The new workmen's compensation measure of the Nova Scotia government, which is on the lines of the Ontario Act has now passed the provincial legislature. The important amendment, enabling certain employers to contract out of the State administered scheme provided by the Act, the text of which amendment was given in our last week's issue, was maintained. But it remains to be seen whether anybody else than the Steel interests of the province and one or two other politically important people, whom it was apparently desired to placate will be allowed to get away from the State Fund.

The whole thing seems to have been a piece of political expediency. Nobody asked for the new legislation, which appears to have been jammed through the Legislature mainly because it will afford a useful cry next year, which is the due date for a provincial election. It is to be hoped at least that the putting into force of the Act will be suspended until such time as it can be seen how the Ontario Act will work out. Otherwise, Nova Scotia may have good reason to regret its rashness.

UNITED STATES LIFE COMPANIES' RATE OF INTEREST.

Returns of twenty-nine of the oldest life insurance companies of the United States for the year ended December 31, 1914, compiled by the N. Y. Spectator, show that the average rate of interest earned was 4.83 per cent. This is one point below the rate of the preceding year, a showing which is considered satisfactory in view of the fact that many corporations either passed or reduced their dividends last year, while interest payments were defaulted on a large number of bond issues.

For seven years the rate of interest earned by the American companies has remained fairly steady, fluctuating only between 4.77 and 4.84 per cent.

Mr. W. A. Reid, assistant superintendent of agencies, Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York, was in Montreal this week.