

CENTRAL CANADA OF BRANDON'S POSITION.

Mr. Arthur E. Fisher, provincial superintendent of insurance, has issued the following bulletin:

"To the policyholders of the Central Canada Insurance Co.:

"So many inquiries have of late been received at my office relative to the matter of the Central Canada Insurance Company, now in liquidation, that I have deemed it advisable to issue a bulletin showing the condition of affairs at the present time as far as Saskatchewan policyholders are concerned.

"On December 10, 1914, the Central Canada Insurance Company went into voluntary liquidation and appointed A. E. Ham, superintendent of insurance for Manitoba, as provisional liquidator. Mr. Ham at once entered into negotiations with several companies relative to the re-insurance of the fire and livestock contracts at that time in force. From December 19 until December 22, at 10 a.m., the outstanding fire policy liability was carried by the Home Insurance Company, of New York. All losses occurring during that time will be paid by the Home Insurance Company.

"Negotiations were entered into with the British Colonial Fire Insurance Company, of Montreal, and, as a result, this latter company has assumed the liability of the fire contracts in force on December 22, 1914. A telegram received this morning (January 5), from Mr. Ham verifies this fact.

"The outstanding losses in Saskatchewan, amounting to \$19,000, will be covered, although it may take a little time to secure funds for this purpose. By the terms of the Saskatchewan Insurance Act, the deposit made with the government will protect these liabilities *pro rata*.

"The claims for unearned premiums on policies cancelled since the 10th of December should be filed in this office, even if claims have already been filed with either Mr. Ham or the Central Canada. By this means the interest of the insured will be more effectively protected, the government deposit being available for this purpose, also on a *pro rata* basis.

"Arrangements are being made for the re-insurance of the livestock contracts. At present, I am unable to make any definite announcement, as negotiations for the purpose of re-insurance are now pending."

CANADIAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION.

Following the elevation of Mr. George Burn to the presidency of the Canadian Bankers' Association, Mr. Clarence A. Bogert, general manager of the Dominion Bank, was elected a vice-president, and Mr. E. Hay, the new general manager of the Imperial Bank, a member of the Executive.

METROPOLITAN INSURES AT BIRTH.

Announcement of an innovation is made by the Metropolitan Life. Hereafter, the company will insure infants at birth, instead of waiting until they are one year old, as has generally been the custom. No death benefit will be paid if the child dies before reaching the age of one year, but the premiums will be returned with 3½ per cent. added. If the infant survives, the premiums paid will be applied to pay for such time as they will cover from the time the child is one year old.

THE UNDERWRITERS' AGENCIES PROBLEM.

The much discussed question of underwriters' agencies, with all its perplexities and inequalities, has been advanced a stage toward a definite solution by resolutions approved in several boards during the past year, writes Mr. E. F. Garrow, secretary of the British America Assurance Company, in a review of fire insurance in Canada during 1914. In fact, while the course pursued was in the nature of a compromise, it was nevertheless based upon logical grounds and for this reason has perhaps removed the issue from the field of insurance politics. The abuses attendant upon the duplication of these agencies had become more marked in British Columbia than elsewhere in Canada, due to the large number of companies operating that field, so that the question was urgently brought home to the members of the mainland board at Vancouver. While the majority were disposed to entirely withdraw recognition, such a course was felt to be impossible because certain underwriters' agencies, previously accorded full membership, had built up considerable incomes which it would be unfair to disturb. Instead, and as a compromise, it was decided to apply a method of classification which would accord recognition to those underwriters' agencies laying claim to it on the ground of (a) maintaining a separate field and office force in the entire territory in which they operate, separate and distinct from the parent company; (b) having been formed for the purpose of taking over or continuing the business of a duly incorporated company which has retired. To these two classes of underwriters' agencies were accorded full membership privileges, including separate votes and a separate set of agents.

COMPREHENSIVE LEGISLATION.

All other underwriters' agencies, namely, those that could not qualify under class "A" or class "B," fall into class "C" and become associate members only, without vote or agency privileges except at places where two agents are allowed to each company, when one of the two may be put down in the name of the associate member. Thus was put into effect the first comprehensive legislation on the subject, to be followed soon after by similar action at Winnipeg and Victoria and finally by the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, which recently approved amendments to its constitution based upon the Vancouver rule. No claim of perfection can be made for what is after all a makeshift, but at least it may be said a simple method is provided for dealing with all future cases, and, what is perhaps of greater consequence, a contentious matter involving many jealousies has been temporarily laid to rest.

INSURANCE OF IMMIGRANTS.

Three of the larger American life companies have in recent years secured thousands of dollars of industrial insurance and millions of ordinary insurance from foreign immigrants. Previously this field had been given little consideration, but within the last five years the matter has been carefully studied and organisations developed for the purpose. There are now active nearly 400 Italian agents for various companies in New York City, producing excellent results, whereas five years ago there were hardly fifty.