

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL CODE RESPECTING PREVENTION OF FIRE.

The act to amend the Criminal Code respecting the prevention of fire, had its first reading in the Senate of Canada on March 25th. The Act reads as follows:

"(1A). Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two years' imprisonment who by negligence causes any fire which occasions loss of life or loss of property.

"The person owning, occupying or controlling the premises in which such a fire occurs, or on which such fire originates, shall be deemed to have caused the fire through negligence if such person has failed to obey the requirements of any law intended to prevent fires or which requires apparatus for the extinguishment of fires or to facilitate the escape of persons in the event of fire, if the jury finds that such fire, or the loss of life, or the whole or any substantial portion of the loss of property, would not have occurred if such law had been complied with."

2. The said Act is further amended by inserting immediately after section five hundred and fifteen the following section:—

"515A. In any case where any fire insurance company which carries any policy of fire insurance on the property, or any Dominion, provincial or municipal fire officer or authority recommends that the owner, lessee or other person controlling or operating any building, structure, factory, shipyard, vessel, dock, wharf, pier, sawmill, or yard in which logs or lumber are stored or held, should make any change or alteration in such building, structure, factory, shipyard, vessel, dock, wharf, sawmill, pier or yard, remove any material therefrom, or supply any apparatus therefor, with a view to reducing the risk of fire or for the extinguishing of fire, and such recommendation is approved by any officer in the service of His Majesty, thereto authorized by the Governor in Council, and notice of such recommendation and of such approval thereof has been served personally upon or forwarded by registered mail to such owner, lessee or other person, and such owner, lessee or other person refuses or neglects to forthwith carry out such recommendation, such owner, lessee or other person shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, or to both fine and imprisonment."

MONTREAL FIRE INSURANCE EVENING CLASSES—CLOSING MEETING.

The closing meeting of a successful session was held on Wednesday, 26th ulto., in the board room of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, Col. Morris presiding. There were also present T. L. Morrissey, Esq., manager, Union Assurance

Society; G. E. Moberly, Esq., manager, Northern; and Lewis Laing, Esq., assistant manager, Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company.

During the session an essay competition, open to members, has been carried on, the students selecting any subject dealt with at these classes, for prizes presented by a member of The Ancient and Honorable Order of The Blue Goose. Mr. Laing acted as judge of essays, assisted by Mr. Moberly, and the successful candidates were announced.

Prize Winning Essays.

In the course of a brief speech, Mr. Laing complimented the students on their contributions, remarking that the ultimate decision had been reached unanimously, but only after much careful thought. While the successful essays were of outstanding merit, the contributions of all students showed much ability and understanding of the subject dealt with. The prize winning essays were then announced and the chairman unsealed the envelopes containing the students' names. The winners were:

1st.—A. D. Reid, Yorkshire Insurance Company, "Co-Insurance."

2nd.—Alex. Robertson, Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Co., Ltd., "Fire Waste and Conservation."

3rd.—A. S. Booth, London & Lancashire, "Fire Surveying and Report Writing."

These names were received with applause, the students being popular members of the class.

Mr. Laing spoke in felicitous terms to the officers of the work done during the past winter, expressing the hope that the development of the class might next session be still further carried on.

Mr. Moberly addressed the class also complimenting the students on the essays submitted. He then gave a few personal reminiscences of Canadian insurance which were greatly enjoyed by all present.

Mr. Morrissey also said a few words to the students of counsel and encouragement. Thereafter the prize essay by Mr. A. D. Reid of the "Yorkshire" on the subject of "Co-Insurance" was read and proved a most interesting contribution.

On behalf of the students Mr. Duffy of the "Yorkshire" thanked the officers for their excellent conduct of the class during the whole session and on his motion a most hearty vote of thanks was given them.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION.

Mr. T. E. Keysell, fire manager of the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation of London arrived in New York last week and will visit Canada in the near future.

Mr. Keysell reports the year 1918 was the best in the history of the Corporation, the net premium income amounting to over \$25,000,000.