

AVIATION INSURANCE.

The insurance of the various risks connected with aviation have been engaging the attention of casualty underwriters both on this continent and in Great Britain. The risks in connection with both heavier-and-lighter-than-air craft are likely to offer an important addition to the coffers of the progressive underwriters.

In Great Britain a powerful organization has been formed—The Aviation Insurance Association to transact insurance arising out of air craft risks at home and abroad.

Insurance will be obtainable against the following hazards, amongst others:

Liability for injury to the public or damage to property of the public;

Loss or damage to goods in transit;

Accidents to passengers and pilots;

Damage to the machines.

Underwriting of aviation risks will until some reliable data is established be of a speculative nature and in many aspects will differ materially from liability and property damage coverage now granted under the law of reparation, or presumptive negligence. An air machine, if forced to descend, may not be able to do so within an authorized landing place, thus bringing in the law of trespass which would undoubtedly place graver responsibility on the owner of the machine.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

Fire at Montreal.—On the 19th instant, a fire broke out on the premises occupied by the Canadian Pneumatic Tool Co., 345 Craig Street. Insurance as follows: On building, North British & Mercantile, \$6,000; Hartford, \$4,000. Total, \$10,000. Loss about \$8,000. On stock, Queensland, \$2,500; Niagara, \$3,500; Springfield, \$2,500; Pacific, \$1,500; Imperial Und., \$5,000. Total, \$15,000. Loss about \$500. The Montreal Ice Cream Cone Co., occupied top of building, and will probably suffer a loss of a few hundred dollars.

Fire at Winnipeg.—On the 22nd instant a fire broke out in the premises of the Brett Carriage Manufacturing Company. The loss is fully covered by insurance and will probably amount to about \$15,000.

Fire near St. Boniface, Man.—On the 21st inst., about thirty cars of grain and coal were completely destroyed by fire on the C. N. R. track east of St. Boniface. Estimated loss \$90,000.

Fire at Havelock, Ont.—On the 19th inst., a fire destroyed the Bank of Toronto building, the Fennell Shoe Store, with considerable stock, and the Bell Telephone Exchange building. Loss about \$30,000.

Fire at London, Ont.—On the 13th instant, a fire broke out in the premises of the Beck Manufacturing Co. entailing a loss of about \$7,500.

BUSINESS IN THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

Describing the business situation in the lower provinces, the Maritime Merchant says:

The word which best seems to describe the general business situation throughout the provinces at present is the word comfortable. There isn't of course the same opportunity for money making as there was a year ago, but in no part of the country, not even in places like New Glasgow and Sydney, which naturally were most affected by the stoppage of munition orders, is there any distress, that is, if Dun's list of failures can be taken as a fair index to the situation. And aside from these places the volume of merchandising business would appear to be quite up to the average of normal times. Merchants of course are buying carefully, but they are also buying frequently, and in bulk their turnover for the first four months of the year should be not far short of the same period in 1918. The winter has been a poor one for lumbering in Nova Scotia, but it has not been so poor in New Brunswick. Later we may feel the effect of this in Nova Scotia, but it has not become noticeable as yet. The fishery situation too is not as satisfactory as one would like to see it, but a lot of things must happen between now and the end of the season, so it would be foolish to feel despondent awhile yet. A very large amount of money is being distributed throughout the country these days by the returned soldiers, who are getting back into civilian life. Merchants engaged in the men's furnishings trade are busier at present than they have been for several years. Wholesale houses report that in most part customers' paper is being looked after in a satisfactory way.

LABOR SITUATION IN CANADA.

President E. W. Beatty, of the Canadian Pacific Railway in an interview at Ottawa is quoted as saying that Canada will be able to absorb all available labor within a very few months. "I look for a very decided improvement in the labor situation," said Mr. Beatty. "I find everyone looking forward optimistically. The present stress is easing off and most business men are prepared to step off briskly once the peace treaty is signed." Mr. Beatty stated that the Canadian Pacific Railway had reinstated every man who had served in the Canadian armies and up to date 2,500 additional returned soldiers have been taken on the company's strength. The Canadian Pacific planned to enter more actively into construction work this year, and while no new works would be opened immediately several large construction jobs principally the extension of western lines and the general improvement of facilities would be commenced.