

THE INSURANCE CHRONICLE.

October 17th, 1908.

The office of Government Actuary, recently created, is a notable departure. The new officer will be attached to the Department of Finance. He will advise the Government upon all actuarial questions. This naturally will not include points raised in connection with licensed insurance companies, which properly come within the scope of the Insurance Department. The wonder is that the Government have found it possible so long to be without the services of the new official. His first important work probably will be to draft the regulations and prepare the rates tables for the Annuities Act. Mr. M. D. Grant is to hold the reins of this actuarial appointment. For many years he has been an assiduous officer in the Insurance Department. To him will fall exacting duties. They will increase as time goes on; but it is generally thought he is the right man in the right place.

LIFE, ACCIDENT, AND CASUALTY NOTES.

Mr. Thomas H. Hall, manager for Canada of the General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Perth, Scotland, is now visiting the Pacific Coast, taking in Prince Albert and Edmonton en route.

* * * *

The London Guarantee and Accident has been licensed to write steam boiler insurance in New York and Colorado. J. F. Sturgis, for seventeen years an inspector for the Hartford Steam Boiler Company, is supervising inspector, and other States will be entered as rapidly as the proper inspection department can be organized.

* * * *

A law has been passed in Austria for the compulsory insurance of private and certain public employees. This measure provides for the creation of a fund for the payment of annuities to incapacitated or retired employees. The law is to come into effect on the 1st January of next year, and all persons over the age of eighteen years, who are in receipt of a wage of at least £25 per annum from one employer, will, with certain exemptions, be required to insure, as well as all public employees who have no fixed claim for State, invalid, or old age pensions.

* * * *

A campaign against underground companies has been started in Minnesota with the co-operation of the Insurance Department. An agent writing business in the American Accident Insurance Company of Lincoln, Nebraska, has been fined \$50 and costs on that account and will in future have to direct his energies to other and more legitimate channels. The company was refused a license by the department at the beginning of the year.

* * * *

Some reasons why a company may decline to issue a fidelity bond on an applicant are given by the Fidelity and Casualty bulletin. 1.—Dishonesty in a former employment. 2.—Addiction to drink. 3.—General dissipation, undesirable associates and the like. 4.—Gambling in general, race-horse gambling or speculation, (stocks, grain, etc.) 5.—Debts, or extravagance, or tendency to live beyond means. 6.—Adverse information from references, or refusal to say any thing; inability to find references. 7.—Inability to verify applicant's statement of career or to account satisfactorily for all of his time.

* * * *

S. Frank Wilson has issued a writ at Toronto against the National Life Assurance Company for the payment to him of \$270.55, and for the delivery of Wilson's life insurance policy in the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company, the policy having been assigned by Wilson to the National Life, according to the writ, through misrepresentation. Mr. Wilson wants a declaration that the National Life has no right or interest in the policy, and also an injunction restraining the National Life from interfering with his right to receive from the Mutual Reserve or the liquidator all his interest in the Mutual Reserve.

* * * *

In a recent bulletin issued by the Insurance Department of the State of North Dakota appears the following paragraph:—"This department will give its best efforts to eliminate irresponsible and dishonest agents from the list of agents licensed in this State, and all complaints will be promptly investigated, but those entering complaints against agents

should give full and complete information, and not expect the Department to act merely upon the assertion that an agent is guilty of dishonest practices. A detailed statement of the charge must be made, and all available evidence should accompany the complaint. The Department wishes again to urge upon the public and insurance officials the necessity for promptly reporting irregular practices on the part of licensed agents, as the law requires that men of bad repute and character shall not be licensed."

* * * *

Industrial insurance was thus defined by Mr. D. G. Sinclair, of New York, at the Quebec meeting of the life men:—"Industrial insurance may briefly be defined as life insurance adapted to the needs and means of the working classes, and although protection along this line had been known in England for hundreds of years, such protection was uncertain, unstable in character, and without adequate guarantee of any return for money invested." The speaker here referred to burial clubs, of which 38,000 were established. "It was not until 1854 that a serious effort was made to place the business of insuring lives for a small amount on a firm, scientific basis, as apart from the prevailing 'hat-passing' methods then in use by burial clubs. In that year the Prudential Assurance Company, of London, inaugurated the plan of issuing assurances on adult lives only, the premiums being paid to the company's agent, who collected it weekly at the home of the insured." From this developed the insurance of children, which has since formed so important a feature in the business of industrial insurance companies.

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN AUGUST.

Industrial accidents occurring to 320 individual work-people in Canada, 1908, were reported to the Department of Labor last month. Of these, 115 were fatal and 205 resulted in serious injuries. In addition 8 fatal accidents were reported as having taken place prior to the beginning of the month. The number of fatal accidents reported in August, 1908, was 23 more than in the previous month and 51 less than in August, 1907.

Of 150 returns received during the month giving the ages of the victims of industrial accidents, 19 referred to persons under twenty-one years of age, 30 to persons between twenty-one and forty-five, 4 to persons over 45; 106 persons were over twenty-one years of age, but their exact ages were not specified.

The following statement gives details of accidents during the month, by industries and groups of trades:—

Trade or Industry.	Killed.	Injured.	Total.
Agriculture	33	35	68
Lumbering	9	13	22
Mining	9	14	23
Building trades	9	21	30
Metal trades	10	31	41
Woodworking trades		4	4
Printing trades		2	2
Clothing trades		1	1
Food and tobacco preparation ..		6	6
Railway service	11	22	33
Navigation	23	3	26
General transport	3	10	13
Civic employees	4	4	8
Miscellaneous	3	27	30
Unskilled labor	1	12	13
Total	115	205	320

AGENCIES WANTED

We would like to secure the appointment as Agents for Board Fire Insurance Company for Winnipeg and the West. We also solicit correspondence with Investment or Loan Companies intending to extend their mortgage investments to Western Canada.

MONTAGUE ALDOUS & LAING,

(New) Nanton Building, WINNIPEG