

MEETING OF DOMINION FIRE PREVENTION COMMITTEE

A meeting of a Dominion Fire Prevention Committee representative of practically all interests concerned in the reduction of fire waste called together by the Superintendent of Insurance, met in Ottawa on Friday, the 13th inst., and was addressed at the opening of the proceedings by Sir Thomas White, who extended a welcome to the representatives and assured them of the desire of the Government to assist in the solution of this great problem.

At luncheon, Hon. Mr. Rowell, President of the Council, addressed the Committee on the work of reconstruction with which Canada, and particularly the reconstruction Committee of the Cabinet, is now very much concerned. Mr. Rowell stated that it was most appropriate that this Committee should have met at this particular time when many questions of reconstruction and conservation and thrift were engaging the attention of the Government.

Mr. G. H. Murray, Secretary of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, and Mr. James White, of the Commission of Conservation, briefly addressed the Committee at luncheon, both urging the enforcement of personal responsibility for fires.

During the noon hour, through the courtesy of the Department of Public Works and of the architects, an inspection was made of the interior of the new Parliament Buildings.

Three business sessions of the Committee were held; in the morning, afternoon and evening, and many important resolutions were adopted. Among these resolutions was one recommending that a campaign of education be undertaken through the press and by public meetings with a view to arousing the public to the necessity of reducing fire waste, a resolution favouring the introduction of systematic education in the schools by means of moving pictures, lectures and pamphlets, a resolution in favour of the Government inspection of buildings insured and uninsured for the purpose of detecting conditions likely to cause fires, such inspection to include not only physical construction, but other matters such as cleanliness, methods of disposal of waste and regulations for conduct of employees, a resolution in favour of insurance companies reporting to the Government all risks in which objectionable conditions exist and which the owner or tenant, whichever is responsible therefor, fails to remedy, a resolution favouring legislation requiring every person effecting insurance to fill out and sign a written application within a prescribed period after the insurance becomes effective. Specimen questions to be included in such an application were also considered. A resolution was also adopted urging the desirability of better municipal by-laws and the enforcement of existing by-laws, and a resolution that there should be legislation fixing personal responsibility for fires occurring after failure of the owners to comply with the requirements of inspectors appointed or authorized by the Government. Recommendations were made for the wider adoption of sprinkler equipment and for uniform hose couplings.

A full discussion took place on many other aspects of fire prevention.

At the evening session brief addresses were given by Mr. Grove Smith, of the Commission of Conservation, Mr. J. B. Laidlaw, who outlined the work of the Advisory Committee of the Fire Prevention League in Ontario, and by Chief Graham of Ottawa,

who described the methods of inspection which have been adopted by his Department.

The Committee has been constituted as a permanent Dominion Advisory Committee on Fire Prevention with whom the Government may consult from time to time as necessity therefor may arise in the carrying into effect of the resolutions adopted.

The representatives present were as follows:—

Canadian Fire Underwriters Association.—

J. B. Laidlaw, Manager, Norwich Union Fire Insurance Society, Toronto; E. P. Garrow, Secretary, British America Assce. Co., Toronto; J. A. Robertson, Sec., C.F.U.A., Toronto; A. W. Hadrill, Permanent Chairman of the Executive Committee, C.F.U.A., Montreal. NON TARIFF INSURANCE COMPANIES:—J. N. Mackendrick, Galt, Ont. CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION:—W. H. Shapley, Toronto; G. M. Murray, Toronto. CANADIAN CREDIT MEN'S TRUST ASSOCIATION:—A. S. Crighton Toronto; T. W. Learie, W. R. Johnston & Co., Ltd., Toronto. RETAIL MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OF CANADA—E. M. Trowern, Sec., R.M.A. of Canada, Ottawa. UNITED FARMERS OF ALBERTA—A. Van R. Schermorhorn, Calgary, Alta. UNITED FARMERS OF ONTARIO—James McEwing, Crayton, Ont. WHOLESALE GROCERS ASSOCIATION—H. W. Chamberlain, Ottawa. CANADIAN BANKERS ASSOCIATION—H. T. Ross, Sec., C.B.A., Montreal. DOMINION MORTGAGE & INVESTMENTS ASSOCIATION—A. E. Holt, Vice-President, Montreal; J. Appleton, Secretary, Toronto. FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION—J. W. Graham, Ottawa. COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION—James White, Asst. to the Chairman, Ottawa; J. Grove Smith, Fire Prevention Engineer, Ottawa. Department of Insurance.

Several other representatives of insurance companies from Montreal, who expected to be present, were prevented by reason of the civic strike. A letter of regret was also received from Mr. Tom Moore, President of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, stating that owing to his absence from Ottawa he was unable to be present.

Mr. W. H. Shapley, of the Canadian Manufacturers Association, acted as Chairman of the Committee and Mr. Finlayson, the Superintendent of Insurance, as Secretary.

The committee adopted a resolution of thanks to the Minister of Finance and the Department of Insurance for calling the Committee together.

QUEBEC POND OF THE ORDER OF THE BLUE GOOSE

Members of the Québec Pond of the Blue Goose are reminded that the annual dinner and initiation of new members will take place to-morrow (Saturday) evening at 7 p.m. in the Ritz Carlton Hotel, official notice of which has been given. It is proposed to inaugurate a new departure in connection with the proceedings of the Order for the coming year, along educational lines, considered to be of benefit to fire insurance interests generally. In this connection classes will be held at stated intervals which will be addressed on different subjects by men of experience and talent who may be available. The topics chosen for each occasion to be those considered most valuable to those engaged in the business of fire insurance. As this will be the first meeting under the new officers elected in October, a large attendance is hoped for.