

DEALT WITH FIRE AND LIFE QUESTIONS.

At the annual convention of the American Bar Association recently held at Portland, Me., the Insurance Committee of the organization presented a report of about 15,000 words, ending with six recommended resolutions, as follows:

"Resolved, that this association disapproves and condemns the prevalent custom which makes state insurance commissionships political prizes, to be distributed as such without regard to fitness or knowledge of insurance business.

"Second, that all companies created under the laws of foreign countries be required to make a deposit in at least one of the states before transacting business anywhere in the United States.

"Third, to repeal the valued policy laws.

"Fourth, the creation in each state of the office of fire marshal.

"Fifth, the enactment of a federal statute forbidding the use of mails to persons, associations, co-partnerships, or corporations conducting any kind of insurance business in the United States who are not licensed to transact such business by the states where such persons, association, co-partnerships or corporations are domiciled, or under whose laws any such corporations are created.

"Sixth the apportionment and contingent distribution of the preferred dividend surplus on existing life policies of all companies as a second precedent to the transaction of business outside of the home states of the several states."

Forms of bills for carrying out the resolutions were attached to the report.

All but two of the above recommendations were adopted by the convention, those rejected being those calling for legislation requiring an accounting and distribution of surplus accumulations by life companies, and for legislation closing the use of the mails to companies, associations, or persons doing an insurance business which are not licensed by the state in which such companies or associations are domiciled.

THE OUTPUT OF NEW SECURITIES in the United States since January 1 to date has reached the enormous total of \$1,657,168,500, which contrasts with \$1,150,071,214 last year, the increase being no less than \$506,107,286. Of this total, stock represents only \$681,259,500; short-term notes total \$280,511,000. Of the total authorizations less than \$1,000,000,000 has thus far been actually disposed of; the exact amount issued, according to the records compiled by The New York Journal of Commerce is \$661,407,100, but this does not include several very large flotations last December.

COMMERCIAL FAILURES IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA during the month of August as reported by R. G. Dunn & Co., were 112 in number and \$1,406,379 in amount of defaulted indebtedness. This compares with 88 failures in the same month last year with liabilities of \$606,631, and 99 in August, 1905, when the amount involved was only \$346,337. While it is true that there was a considerable increase in number of defaults in the Dominion of Canada, the increase in liabilities was partly due to three failures of unusual magnitude.

Prominent Topics**Important New York Developments.**

Money market rather than stock exchange developments have afforded the chief features of interest since the beginning of the month. Indeed, last week's bettered tone in stock activity (largely professional, it is true) was to be accounted for chiefly by monetary conditions and prospects. Net price gains resulted during the week, even in the face of such circumstances as the failure of the Union Iron & Steel Company, the official reduction in the price of copper metal to 18 cents, the passing of the dividend upon Interborough-Metropolitan shares and the failure of one of the largest Stock Exchange houses. Possibly the market had some time before over-discounted all probable autumn disturbances—a circumstance making recovery the more easy under present monetary conditions which are, at least, less alarming than recently anticipated. The growing feeling that the present week's issue of New York city bonds would prove successful gave much of confidence to the general Wall Street tone.

Saturday's market proved more sluggish, partly on account of the London holiday. There was some disposition to realize profits on the considerable advance of preceding days. The bank statement proved somewhat disappointing, as failing to show the expected gain in cash. However, the surplus of \$7,372,550 is in considerable contrast to the 1906 deficit of \$6,577,025 at the corresponding date. Also, it became known on Saturday that deposits of treasury funds had been made with some of the banks in the financial district, and that more were in immediate prospect. Then, too, there were hopes of money market relief in the fact that cotton bills had already made their appearance in the foreign exchange market, and were instrumental (in connection with the acceptance also of finance bills) in depressing foreign exchange to rates pointing to probable imports of gold to New York.

Monday's market did little more than "mark time" having already discounted about as fully as it dared the hoped-for favourable outcome of Tuesday's \$40,000,000 bond issue. The completing of the Union Pacific's bond subscription was another event awaited with more than ordinary interest. Then there was the paying-off, at London chiefly, of the Japanese 6 per cent. loan. The general tone of the stock exchange was firm, and call money rose to 6 p.c., as was natural on the eve of so important a bond issue.

Details of the issue were not available until the close of Tuesday's stock market, though the terms of the principal bids were generally known towards the close. As, however, the success of the issue had already been anticipated, the effect upon the street was not marked, and failed to strengthen prices which had declined during the day under the influence of copper developments—a concrete example of the latter being the reduction of the quarterly dividend disbursement on the Calumet and Hecla stock from \$20 to \$15.

Speaking of the disquieting influence of New York's failures in June and August to float 4 p.c. bonds and of the beneficial effects that would come from Tuesday's successful issue of 4½ p.c. civic securities, The Evening Post said: "Such incidents were easily translated, even by people above the