

DEVELOPMENT OF EXPLOSION INSURANCE.

As a result of pro-German activities in the States, a new form of insurance, known as explosion insurance, has developed, designed to protect the interests of manufacturers who are busy on work for the Allies. A statement by Vice-President J. Scofield Rowe, of the Aetna, says that these special contracts "may be termed respectively 'explosion property damage insurance' and 'explosion use and occupancy insurance.' The former provides for the actual property damage sustained, while the latter pays to the assured an amount equal to the loss of profits occasioned by reason of the interruption of operations, said loss of profits being determined by means of the insured's records showing the contracts in hand at the time of explosion. All causes of explosion are included with the exception of explosions of fly wheels and boilers, which latter hazards are insured in the so-called fly wheel and boiler explosion policies:—

"Explosion insurance policies were first found in demand in the early spring of this year, but since August last the demand has increased tremendously. This expansion in a new field of insurance may be attributed largely to the activities of the local companies, who have been keenly interested and instrumental in the extension of the policy coverages and increased facilities for obtaining insurance in large amounts. Indeed, the demand for explosion insurance has become so great that the utmost care is exercised in the selection of risks, and it is reasonable to expect that the need for this form of protection will be realized by manufacturers even after the resumption of normal peace conditions."

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

The annual report of the Union Bank of Canada shows profits of \$659,688 against \$712,440 in 1914 and equal to about 7.8 per cent. on the Bank's paid-up capital and reserve combined. A balance brought forward of \$103,019 makes the total available on profit and loss account \$762,707. The 8 per cent. dividend and bonus of 1 per cent. absorbs \$450,000; \$150,000 is placed to contingent account, and \$10,000 to Officers' Pension Fund, while the war tax on note circulation absorbs \$45,730. The slightly increased balance of \$106,976 on profit and loss account is carried forward.

The balance sheet shows total liabilities to the public of \$82,001,370. Liquid assets, including over 12 millions in cash, amount to \$39,138,385, or 47.7 per cent. Current loans in Canada of \$48,941,315 stand one million less, while call loans in Canada of \$7,746,570 show an increase of 4½ millions. Call loans, elsewhere than in Canada, were virtually unchanged at \$4,183,657.

MR. GEORGE W. PACAUD.

Mr. George W. Pacaud, the well-known Montreal insurance broker, has been appointed as from the first of the year, chief agent for the province of Quebec of the National Fire Insurance Company of Hartford. This Company occupies a very strong position. Its assets as at December 31st, 1914 were \$16,049,725, and liabilities \$10,443,550. The paid-up capital being \$2,000,000, the surplus over all liabilities was \$3,606,175. Cash premiums in 1914 were \$8,643,554, and total income \$10,090,371. A large circle of friends will wish Mr. Pacaud success with his new connections.

PERSONALS.

Major G. M. Reid, formerly head of the Great-West Life's advertising department, has joined the 10th Overseas Battalion, Winnipeg Grenadiers.

Mr. Paul J. Myler, vice-president of the Canadian Westinghouse Company, has been elected a director of the Bank of Toronto, in succession to Hon. C. S. Hyman, resigned.

Mr. H. C. Cox, president of the Canada Life Assurance Company, has been elected a director of the Canadian Bank of Commerce in succession to the late Mr. Alexander Laird.

With reference to Mr. E. Gissing's New York appointment, noted in this column last week, the name of his new company should read, the London & Lancashire Indemnity Company of America.

Messrs. Henry Cockshutt, president of the Cockshutt Plow Works, Ltd., Brantford, and Hugh Blain of the Eby Blain Company, Toronto, have been elected directors of the National Life Assurance Company.

The death is announced at Waterloo, P.Q., of Mr. Gardner Stevens, a director of the Eastern Townships Bank from 1892 until its amalgamation with the Canadian Bank of Commerce, and subsequently a director of the latter bank.

Senator James Mason, general manager of the Home Bank of Canada, has been warmly congratulated on his recent promotion in military rank to brigadier-general. General Mason's valuable services to the Militia for a prolonged period are well known, and since the outbreak of war, he has rendered important assistance in organisation. His present promotion has been thoroughly well earned.

Major W. H. Clarke-Kennedy, formerly assistant manager for Canada of the Standard Life Assurance Company, whose mention in despatches and Staff Appointment in Flanders were noted in this column last week, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

Mr. Edson L. Pease, general manager of the Royal Bank since 1900, will in future occupy the newly-created office of "managing director," Mr. C. E. Neill, assistant general manager, succeeding to the post of general manager.

CASUALTY COMPANY FAILURES.

The record of casualty company organization in the United States during the past fifteen years has been remarkable for the number of retirements, by merger, reinsurance, liquidation or receivership. Since 1900 there have been no less than fifty-six companies then in existence or since organized which have lost their identity by reinsurance or retirement by one way or another, or have consolidated with some other company. A table compiled by the Fidelity and Casualty Company, shows that during 1915 no less than nine companies retired by reinsurance, receivership or liquidation, and that five companies were merged with others during the year.