

seems entirely proper that we should do something at this time to aid you."

The chairman of the investigation committee has addressed a letter to President Alexander asking for full information regarding the financial transactions of the Society with other corporations. A full list is asked of the Society's employees, stating their duties, their salaries, and other emoluments.

He is also asked to set forth any increase in salary to any employee, to give the name of any employee, director, trustee or stockholder who has any business relation with any other corporation, the compensation, direct or indirect, he receives in such manner and the name of the Equitable Society's officer who authorized the same. Information is also asked as to who of the employees are related by blood or marriage to any director or officer of the society. If any such persons are employed in the services outside of the officers and ordinary departments and agencies of the society, Mr. Alexander is requested to give their names and state who so employed them.

Among the points on which Mr. Alexander is requested to furnish data are the society's holdings or interest in the Mercantile Trust Company of New York, the Equitable Trust Company of New York, the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company of New York, or in any other trust, title or safe deposit company, bank or banking company; the society's leases of its buildings in this city, its loans to any of its employees, officers, directors or trustees, together with a statement showing who authorized the loans and a statement of all dealings by which any brokers sold for or to the society any stocks, bonds, securities or other property, including all the underwritings of the society.

A statement as to whether anyone connected with the society received compensation or benefit from such stock transaction or underwriting; a statement whether any officer, director, trustee or employee has received any money or other thing of value because of his relation with the society; a list of the society's contracts with its leading agents here and abroad, with a compilation to show the practical result to the society from each agency; a statement showing each item going to make up the total of \$7,000,285 mentioned in the report of December 31, 1904, for commissions, advertising, postage and exchange, and how and why each was spent, also each item of a total of \$7,179,318 in the same report for "all other disbursements," and how and why each was spent; a statement showing in detail the losses, if any, to the society, since January 1, 1900, on any property of any kind purchased by it, giving the names of the persons who sold the same to the society; a record of any transaction by which any officer, director, trustee or employee of the society has irregularly or improperly

received money or other valuable thing from the society outside of and not part of his regular salary, and also a monthly statement from January 1, 1900, showing the cash balances of the society, and where the same were and are deposited and the terms of each deposit.

Another movement is directed against Mr. Hendricks, superintendent of insurance, State of New York, to prevent his taking action in furtherance of the mutualization scheme until an action has been tried which has been brought by a policyholder to compel the society to divide its surplus amongst the policy-holders instead of the stockholders. It is contended that,

"According to the existing charter of the Equitable it was intended to be a 'mutual' company, that all its business has been obtained by representing that it was a mutual company, and he declares:

"That whether the policy-holders' said interest in the surplus is paid over in the way of dividends or in any other methods at fixed periods, the fact remains that the policy-holders of the company are the owners of said surplus, and on the principles upon which this defendant company was organized the stockholders have not and in the very nature of the case cannot have any interest in said surplus, beyond securing to them their dividend of 7 per cent. annually on their stock of each member or policy-holder, and the excess interest earning ascertained, then it is required that the defendant or other life insurance companies conducted upon the mutual plan, should either return to the member or policy-holder the over-payment of such policy-holder, with the excess interest earning on said policy-holder's own funds so paid into the company, or, if not paid over to said member or policy-holder that he should have the credit for such over-payment profit or surplus on the books of the company; that the surplus of this defendant or any other life insurance company, conducted as this defendant is on the mutual plan, belongs to the policy-holders, since the policy-holders are the ones whose payment created said funds."

The latest phase of this highly complicated dispute is the intervention, by formal permission of a Supreme Court Judge, of three other stockholders in the suit brought by Franklin B. Lord for an injunction to restrain the directors and officers of the Equitable from turning over the control of the Society to the policy-holders. Five stockholders have now intervened in this most regrettable affair. The Investigation Committee is evidently quite serious in its action as a Mr. Haskell, president of the Carborendum Company, Niagara Falls, who is spoken of as a well-known auditor and mathematician, has been engaged to assist the Committee.

A large body of agents are now in Session in New York discussing the situation.