

AMENDMENTS TO SASKATCHEWAN'S INSURANCE LAW

They Will Regulate Disposition of Funds After Death—Unlicensed Insurance Discussed

Changes in Saskatchewan's insurance law will be made in the near future, as recently forecasted in *The Monetary Times*. One of the proposed changes is to enable an assured party effectively to regulate the disposition after death of the trust fund created. This will be supported by the Life Officers Association and the Life Underwriters' Association of Canada.

Far too little attention is given by many people who hold insurance contracts to the protection of their beneficiaries, said Mr. Arthur E. Fisher, insurance superintendent for the province, in a recent interview:—"In many instances in which a wife to whom a policy has been made payable dies, the question of a change in beneficiary has been unattended to. It would be far better were the assured person during his lifetime carefully to consider this matter, and provide adequate safeguards. If such a course were taken the possibility of delay in payment after his death would frequently be averted. This delay, it must be understood, generally speaking is no fault of the champions. It is not their intention to dispute the claim which is brought before them, but they are obliged to see that all legal requirements are complied with. This they must do in their own business interests."

Problem of Unlicensed Insurance.

Speaking of unlicensed fire insurance companies and the nature of the security which they offer to policyholders, Mr. Fisher said that the problem had become a serious one in almost every province of Canada.

"So far as the people of Saskatchewan are concerned," he continued, "this question has two aspects. In the first place there are insurance companies which operate entirely outside the boundaries of Canada, and in the second place there are companies incorporated and operating legally in certain provinces of Canada, but not in Saskatchewan. There is nothing to prevent anyone who cannot obtain insurance on his property with the duly licensed companies placing his insurance across the international line or in Great Britain. Should he do so, however, he would find that he lacked the protection guaranteed by the supervision exercised by the Federal Department, and the various provincial departments as well, not to mention the benefit that might be secured through the deposit made with the Government for the protection of policyholders.

Keep Away from These Companies.

"The inadvisability of placing one's insurance in companies not licensed in the province is patent when one considers the fact that in the event of legal proceedings being taken judgment against a company which comes under this classification would be of little value in the province of Saskatchewan. The policyholder would have no means of enforcing his claim, or at best, inefficient means, whatever the nature of a court decision might be, unless the company concerned was licensed and duly registered in the province.

"This unlicensed insurance is generally placed by brokers travelling through the province. With 84 companies registered and licensed, all of which have deposits either at Ottawa with the Dominion Insurance Department or in Regina with the Minister, I fail to see, why any propertyholder in this province should need to seek his insurance from an unlicensed company. There are, moreover, nine mutual fire insurance companies duly registered in Saskatchewan."

RELATION OF STATE TO INSURANCE

"No more interesting aspect of the public's attitude toward insurance has developed than the opinion which is beginning to be expressed in many quarters that the business should be a public monopoly," writes a professor of economics as the introductory sentence in the preface of his valuable book on "Insurance and the State," which elucidates in a far and interesting manner this topic, interest in which is spreading. Professor Gephart shows that insurance as a study has received scant attention except by those interested in the business and points out how the public suffers through this lack of knowledge.

The various chapters of the book deal with: Character of Insurance, State Insurance in Practice, Should the State Monopolize Life, Fire or Social Insurance? Insurance and the State, W. F. Gephart, Ph.D., \$1.25, Macmillan Company of Canada, Toronto.

CANADA AND ARGENTINE FREE WHEAT COMPETITORS

Dominion Takes Foreign Trade by Selling Cheaper Than the United States

Canada and Argentine are the only wheat raising countries the United States need fear, according to the *Wall Street Journal*. Argentina has an import duty, which it is said, will be removed. Under the new tariff wheat flour is on the free list, with a countervailing duty of 45 cents per barrel. The new tariff is expected to act as an evener on speculative conditions and prevent radical advance in times of short crops in the United States when Canada and Argentina have a big surplus.

Little to Invite Buying.

At the moment there is little in the speculative situation to invite large buying, and those who are bearish take the position that prices should go lower, as export buying has fallen to small proportions. Canada is doing all the selling at lower prices than the United States, and has taken the foreign trade away, and the belief exists that prices the United States side of the international line should drop to a competitive basis.

A big decrease in the amount of breadstuffs on ocean passage is already liberal. Conditions in the Argentine Republic will be watched with great interest by the entire wheat world, and it is expected that with additional dry spots in that country a scare of considerable size may be seen.

Depending on Canada.

The shipments from that country have narrowed down to smaller proportions, and the likelihood is that they will fall off still further before another crop is available.

The importing nations of the old world have been depending upon Russia and the Danube, as well as Canada, India and Australia for supplies of late, with fair proportions coming from Argentina. While the clearances from United States coasts have shown goodly proportions, a large part of this grain was grown north of the international line. Nearly all the wheat to clear from the United States in the last several weeks was grain sold some time ago.

HAMBURG MARKET AND CANADIAN HARD WHEAT

The grain trade of Hamburg is awaiting with interest the first shipments of this year's crop of Canadian wheat, says Mr. C. F. Just, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Hamburg. On 'Change, the commissioner has been repeatedly requested by the representatives of the leading flour milling firms to assist them in obtaining advance samples of the first three grades in order that they might be enabled to test the baking qualities of the crop at the earliest possible moment. It is true to say that as an ideal mixer for German wheat Western Canadian hard wheat last year established its reputation in quite a notable manner. The German crop which had proved to be low in flour yield during milling and of a poor quality in baking, urgently needed the addition of a wheat high in gluten in order to make a fair average flour. With the Russian crop a failure, Canadian wheat got its chance, and in the result the imports reached a record figure. While these large imports last year were thus to some extent accidental, the remarkable growth of German imports of Canadian wheat of late suggests on the other hand, that this has been due to something less than an accident.

It was found that the imports of wheat from Canada which were non-existent in 1909, rose successively from 16,973 metric tons in the calendar year 1910 to 88,017 tons in 1911, and to 269,028 tons in 1912. During January to June of the current year upwards of 160,000 metric tons have been imported already. Of these imports the port of Hamburg alone obtained in 1910, 16,973 tons; in 1911, 52,070, and in 1912, 139,715 tons.

A fair explanation of this development is to be found in the recognition by the German milling trade of the quality of the wheat which Canada can be depended upon to supply.

A Toronto financier, just returned from England, estimates that the British investor during recent years has thrown \$100,000,000 into poor speculations, and some of them Canadian.

"The Canadian Pacific Railway is Canada's best barometer," said a German banker to *The Monetary Times*. "It benefits from everything by which the Dominion benefits—immigration, tourist travel, land purchases, steamship activity, freight carriage, and so on."