

THE EAGLE & BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

The Eagle and British Dominions Insurance Company Limited, is a recently consummated British insurance union of age, stability and prestige with youth, success and enterprise. Of the two companies lately amalgamated under this title, the Eagle dated from 1807, enjoyed one of the finest reputations of any purely life office in London, and held particularly choice, well-established connections, susceptible of great development in enterprising hands. The other constituent company of the amalgamation, the British Dominions General, is a remarkable example of what originality and enterprise can accomplish in an apparently well-filled field. Established so recently as 1904, the British Dominions first gave its attention to the exacting department of marine insurance, in which it speedily made for itself a name and reputation. Six or seven years ago, it began to devote some of its energies to the cultivation of fire and general risks, building up the while its funds and resources and continuing to distinguish itself in that branch of the business in which its first signal success was secured. Judicious amalgamations, the North Western Insurance Company of Manchester being secured about the close of 1914, and a subsequent arrangement being made with the United Dominions Insurance Company, added largely to the fire and general premium income, the wise policy being followed of retaining in the service of the growing company, the capable officials of organisations absorbed.

ENTERPRISE IN SPECIAL SCHEMES.

The main factor in the British Dominions' success, apart from the policy referred to and the impetus given to its marine department by the activities consequent upon the war, has undoubtedly been, however, its enterprise in the introduction of special schemes to meet the popular taste. The "all-in" policy, by which the house owner or householder can insure on one policy against a whole row of risks from fire to loss of rent, at a most moderate premium, has been noted with interest on this side of the Atlantic as an outstanding development in British insurance enterprise, while the company has also distinguished itself with special schemes for British motorists, a war loan scheme and other novel and appealing plans. For several years, in fact, the British Dominions has been widely recognised as in a class by itself among the younger British insurance companies for energy, enterprise and success.

SUBSTANTIAL FIGURES.

That the same policy of service to policyholders on lines of considerable originality will be continued by the amalgamated company is evidenced by the fact that Mr. E. M. Mountain, who has been the mainspring of the British Dominions' development and whose work in connection with that Company constitutes a remarkable record, is chairman and managing director of the Eagle & British Dominions. With such a brilliant record in diverse fields behind the two companies now linked together, the future progress of the strong, resourceful and vigorous combined institution will be watched with much interest. The progress made should certainly form

a fitting continuation of the outstanding success previously achieved by those now in charge. The Eagle & British Dominions has within the last month or two acquired the business of another old established purely life office, the Sceptre Life Association, a most conservative organisation dating from 1864, and specialising in the lives of total abstainers. Even prior to the further amalgamation, the Company presented substantial figures in its balance sheet. At December 31st last, total assets were \$18,037,574, net income during 1916 reaching \$8,803,862. The various reserves are as follows:—marine, \$4,423,845; fire, \$825,742; life, \$7,931,018; special reserve, \$1,778,442, a total of \$14,959,027. Cash in banks and on hand was \$1,095,030. Evidencing the rapid growth of the business, it may be noted that last year's marine premiums, which approximated \$7,400,000, show an increase of no less than \$2,300,000 upon those of the preceding year, the department funds showing an increase for the year of approximately \$1,500,000. The fire and general revenue account shows that on a premium income of about \$1,555,000, an increase of about \$170,000, losses for the year were only slightly in excess of 50 per cent., and the department funds were increased by about \$185,000,000. These details are sufficient to indicate the rapidity of the Company's progress, while at the recent annual meeting it was stated that the business in every department is still increasing.

CANADIAN CONNECTIONS.

In Canada, the Eagle & British Dominions transacts fire, sprinkler leakage and marine insurance, its interests in the Dominion being in the hands of the well-known firm of Dale & Company Limited, of Montreal. As has been shown, the Company constitutes a remarkable instance of great enterprise and originality combined with skilful management, and the firm position it now occupies makes it thoroughly worthy of support by Canadian policyholders. Both by reason of the Company's own merits, and on account also of its excellent Canadian associations, a steady expansion in the Canadian business of the Eagle & British Dominions may be confidently anticipated.

FIRES IN TEMPORARY ABSENCE.

Attention is being called to the frequency of fires in dwellings just temporarily unoccupied—cases of the usual occupants being away for a few days, or for a few hours at the movies, to witness some street attraction, calls on neighbors, etc.

Most such fires have a first-off suspicious look, for an incendiary knows the value of an alibi; but many of this sort are the result of crass carelessness. Furnaces and stoves are loaded up so the fire will last, lamps are left burning, drying clothes too near heat, and other foolishness. Often premises are left with young children and sometimes they are locked in to their incineration from clothing catching fire or to perish with the building, whatever causes its burning.

In the present demand for the earnings of the adults of families, both sexes, the child custody of dwellings is likely to increase. Public censure ought to be aroused concerning the prevalent carelessness and indifference to the safety of life and property from fire and a felt sentiment that it evidences moral turpitude, if not worse.