

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

Fire at Montreal.—By the fire which occurred on the 4th instant in the Montreal Abattoirs Plant, the following Companies are interested:—Ph. of London, \$22,000; Fid. Phoenix, \$20,000; Union Lon. \$18,700; Northern, \$20,000; Hartford, \$16,700; Nor. Union, \$16,700; Continental, \$15,100; Guardian \$15,000; Alliance, \$13,500; Caledonian, \$13,500; N. Y. Und., \$10,000; Lon. & Lanc., \$10,000; Gen. Paris, \$5,000; Un. Paris, \$3,000; Fid. Und., \$8,500; Br. Amer., \$7,500; London, \$7,000; Emp. Liab., \$7,000; Gen. Perth, \$6,700; Se. Union, \$6,700; Gr. Amer., \$6,700; Mt. Royal, \$6,000; Pacific Coast, \$3,400; L. & L. & Gl., \$3,000; Gl. & Rutgers, \$2,500; N. S. Und., \$10,000; L. Guar. & Acc., \$10,000; Stuyvesant, \$15,000; Nat'l. Un. \$10,000; Br. Emp., \$3,500; North Amer., \$5,000; Prov. Wash., \$2,300; Firemen's Fund, \$2,300; Un. Canton, \$10,000; Br. Crown, \$10,000; Br. Traders, \$6,000; Lloyds, \$10,000; Excess, \$10,000; Lloyds, \$10,000; Lloyds, \$10,000; North River, \$7,500; U. States, \$7,500; Richmond, \$5,000; Pacific Fire, \$7,500; Knickerbocker, \$7,500; Equitable Undrs., \$15,000;—Total \$454,300.

Fire at Creighton Mine.—On the 6th instant a fire occurred in the plant of the Canadian Copper Co. at Creighton Mine. The following Companies are interested:—Atlas, \$15,000; Continental, \$20,000; Guardian, \$15,000; Royal, \$15,000; Liv. & Lon. & Globe, \$10,000; Western \$15,000; National of Hart, \$15,000; Nova Scotia, \$15,000; Northern, \$15,000; Fidelity Und., \$20,000; Norwich Union, \$10,000; Total \$165,000. Loss about 20 per cent.

Fire at Montreal.—On the 12th instant a fire broke out in the Salaberry Apartments, corner of St. Denis & Sherbrooke Sts., Montreal, supposed to have been caused by an electric Motor in the basement. Loss about \$7,500.

Fire at Montreal.—On the 10th instant a fire broke out on the premises, 322 St. Catherine St. West, Montreal. Insurance on Building:—Atlas, \$15,000, loss about \$5,000; on Fixtures, Royal, \$5,000; Union \$5,000; North Brit. & Mer., \$5,000; Total \$15,000. Loss about \$5,000. On Stock, London & Lancashire \$2,000, loss total.

LIFE INSURANCE IN INDIA.

(Calcutta Commerce.)

Life assurance has not yet filtered down to the masses in India, and what promise it held out in this direction received a set-back by the innumerable provident societies, started on unsound financial principles and worked by dishonest men, becoming bankrupt. It was at this stage that the government interfered and legislated in the teeth of a very vigorous but uninformed opposition; but the legislation scarcely went far enough to safeguard the interests of the assuring public.

Indian Insurance Legislation followed the lines of the British Act on the subject, but compared to the legislation in force in the United States of America and Canada, both of which closely resemble each other, the Indian Act would seem

to afford but little protection. I agree with a Madras paper in holding that if the Indian Insurance Act went several steps further in the manner of American legislation and brought life offices under the closer supervision and greater scrutiny of the State, Indian life offices would become more popular and prove a public blessing.

VALUATION OF BOND HOLDINGS.

The question of the method of valuing the bond holdings of a life company was considered in a paper read by Frederick H. Johnston at the meeting of the Actuarial Society of America in Montreal. The question is at all times important, Mr. Johnston said, but at the present time, in view of the low market value, it is especially so and must receive careful consideration before the close of the year.

Possible Solution.

In considering a possible solution to the whole question, he pointed out that there are two circumstances to be remembered:

First, that a precedent was created at the end of 1914, at which time the Stock Exchange was closed and the values authorized were as of June 30 of that year, and again at the end of 1917, though the Stock Exchange was not closed, the National Convention of Insurance Commissioners "recognized the probability that the participation of the United States in the World War would affect the bond and stock markets to such an extent that market quotations on any fixed date would not represent the real values on standard securities." A committee appointed for the purpose decided "to prepare the values by adding together the market values as of November 1, 1916, February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1, 1917, and dividing them by five enter the results in the book as the proper values to be allowed as of December 31, 1917."

Second, the legal provisions in some States permitting the use of the amortization method. The following States have such a provision: California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin. This provision is substantially the same in each State and describes the method of amortization, using the purchase price if not in excess of the then market value as a starting point, and also excludes any bond in default as to principal or interest. With the exception of Connecticut the section of the law on this subject also provides that a corporation may return such bonds at their market value or their book value, but in no event at an aggregate value exceeding the aggregate of the values calculated according to the rule prescribed.

The statutory provision for amortization supplies a sound principle for ascertaining the values, but falls short of meeting the present condition by fixing the purchase price as the initial amortization value, and hence involving a violent change in going from the market value basis. It supplies, however, a hint which is helpful in the proviso that book of market values may be used if not in excess of amortized values. The proposition which

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