

INSPECTION OF FACTORY SAFETY APPLIANCES.

A system of investigating and approving all factory safety appliances and devices and labelling those approved is about to be put into effect by the Workmen's Compensation Service Bureau of New York. This new departure in accident prevention endeavor will be undertaken on behalf of the bureau by the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., of Chicago, with which the bureau has affiliated for this important work.

The Underwriters' Laboratories, with its extensive plant and well established inspection and testing system, has facilities for extending its inspection work to cover safety to life devices and thereby render great service to the bureau members. When the plan is fully put in operation it is intended that the fullest credit in rates shall be applied to workmen's compensation and employers' liability risks which use the labelled appliances of the laboratories.

The scheme of standardizing appliances for protecting life has been under consideration by the bureau for the past two months, but its application was only established by the governing committee of the bureau approving an affiliation with the Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., by which, under the direction of a council of technical experts of the bureau, the laboratories will extend its inspection work to cover safety to life as well as to property. Under this arrangement the label of the laboratories will indicate conditions standardized as regards safety to life from all causes as well as with regard to the risk of property loss from fire. The new system will have an important bearing on workmen's compensation and employers' liability rating.

THE MONEY VALUE OF A MAN.

Far-seeing creditors insist that their debtors shall insure the goods that have been delivered to them, against destruction. Practically all combustible property of any value is insured against destruction by fire and practically no vessel is afloat that is not insured and this is as it should be, but if we turn out attention to human life, we find that only a small portion of its actual money value is insured. Every man who is in receipt of wages, salary or income has a definite money value which varies with his age. Apart from his moral and spiritual value to society, as a wealth producer he has a certain definite monetary value and this monetary value consists of the present worth of the annual sums which he will continue to earn if he lives out the expectation of life. This money value, as far as possible, should be insured so that if the expectation of life is not realized, the dependents of the deceased will not suffer want. It will amaze many of our readers to learn that a careful approximation shows that only 7 per cent. of the life value of the population is insured. It would of course be too much to expect that every citizen would insure his life for such a sum as carefully invested would continue to reproduce his wages, salary or income in the event of his death, but certainly 7 per cent. of such "life value" is too little to leave and that is all that the insurance which is now in force amounts to. We would not for a moment urge any worker to take more insurance than he is able to bear without undue sacrifice. On the other hand, a very much greater insurance should be carried than is actually in force.—*Mutual Life of Canada's Agents' Bulletin.*

PRUDENTIAL OF AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY.

The Prudential of America celebrated its thirty-ninth birthday on Tuesday, this being the anniversary of the date on which the late Hon. John F. Dryden in 1875 started the business which has since had such a wonderful growth. At the outset there were but a scant three or four clerks to look after the office detail, while to-day there is a home office army of 3,500 employees, to say nothing of a superintendency and agency force of more than 13,000.

At the beginning of 1876 the number of Prudential outstanding policies was but 4,816, as compared with a total of more than 12,500,000 in force on the books to-day. Then the total insurance was \$443,072, as against an aggregate to-day which exceeds \$2,500,000,000. The first year's assets were \$2,232, while at the close of 1913 they totaled \$323,167,249, with a surplus of \$25,644,459. Then the death claims paid were \$1,958. Now they have advanced to more than \$21,472,133.

To-day the Prudential is doing more business than ever in its history, and its officers look upon its thirty-ninth birthday as but the stepping-stone to greater results for its policyholders.

GENERAL ACCIDENT FIRE AND LIFE.

One hundred and thirty-five members of the clerical staff of the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation in Great Britain are now serving with the colours, or 35 per cent. of the total employees in the British Isles. Of these, 60 are from the head office in Perth. Including the Colonial, French and Belgian offices, there are over 300 of the clerical staff serving with the Allies. The directors have decided that full pay shall be given to all whose salaries are under 35s. per week, and that those over that sum shall receive full pay, less any payment made by the Government. All positions are being kept open for members of the staff on military duty.

The General Accident is also identifying itself with the work of the War Refugees' Committee, at whose disposal it has placed spacious accommodation at General Buildings, Aldwych. A visit from Her Majesty the Queen one day recently, to see something of the work going forward, was an honour which was duly appreciated and will not soon be forgotten by the recipients.

DOMINION TRUST COMPANY.

The amount at the credit of this Company's profit and loss account for the eight months ending August 31st, was approximately \$185,158.22. From this amount two quarterly dividends of 2 p.c. each were paid, amounting to \$88,900, leaving \$96,258.22 available for distribution for the current quarter.

In view of the Company's expanding business, necessitating advances to estates, and the generally unsettled financial conditions due to the European War, the directors have deemed it good judgment and acting in the best interests of the shareholders to defer for the present the declaration of the present quarter's dividend.

This decision has largely been influenced by the special efforts being made to have a moratorium proclaimed in British Columbia. Such legislation would undoubtedly work great hardship on those companies loaning funds on mortgage.