

Ghent (Belgium) some time. This is conducted principally through the workmen's societies; to the amount paid to a beneficiary by those organizations the municipality adds 50 per cent. when it is shown that the man's unemployment is due to no fault of his own, such as a strike or lock out.

ELIEL & LOEB are placing \$5,000,000 of use-and-occupancy insurance on Sears, Roebuck & Co., whose insurance line they control. This is an increase of a million dollars over the line carried last year, and is the largest use-and-occupancy line in the country. The rate is 13.6 cents. The insurance amounts to profit insurance and guarantees the firm in case of a total loss on its factory the sum of \$16,666.66 per day, with partial loss covered in proportion. The line is distributed among twenty-five fire insurance companies, the largest line being \$800,000 and none being smaller than \$100,000.

THE UNION FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY of Paris is entering the United States field and will do a general business throughout the Republic except on the Pacific coast. The general management of the company on this side will be at the Providence office of Starkweather and Shepley, through whom it has been operating in surplus line business since 1900. The Union Fire, which dates from 1828, has a capital of 10 million francs (\$2,000,000) of which one-quarter, \$500,000, is paid up. Its premium income, the largest of any French fire office, was in 1909, almost \$5,000,000; its cash assets are \$8,000,000 and net surplus over all liabilities \$2,500,000. Its dividends last year were equal to 75 p.c. on the paid-up capital.

HEAVY ACCIDENT LOSSES.—Accident underwriters complain, says the New York Journal of Commerce, that the present year has thus far been unusually bad in the matter of death claims from accidental causes and the resultant loss ratio for personal accident business, it is expected, will be exceptionally serious for the entire year, probably establishing a new high record. This condition is not the experience of only one or two companies, but is practically universal, the conservatively managed companies, as well as the reckless plungers, being caught for numerous fatal claims. The responsibility for the present wave of accidental death has not been determined as yet to the satisfaction of any.

THE NATIONAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY of Paris is entering the United States field. Its deposit of bonds will be made with the Rhode Island Insurance Department, and the company will operate generally throughout the United States where it is thought desirable to enter. The National, which has been writing conservative lines on surplus business in the United States during the past six years, dates from 1820 and is the second oldest of the companies in Paris (France). The National's capital is \$2,000,000, \$500,000 of which is paid up and its cash assets amount to \$4,500,000 of which over \$2,000,000 is clean net surplus over and above all liabilities. Its net premium income for 1909 amounted to \$2,000,000 and the losses to less than \$1,000,000. The company paid 120 per cent. to its shareholders in 1909, and it has the reputation of being a most conservative office.

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER Frank H. Hardison, of Massachusetts, referring to the subject of the

reduction of expenses by fire insurance companies—a matter which is much to the fore in the United States at the present time—says that the question is one of great perplexity. It is strongly argued, and seems plausible, that any legislation which fixes the expense which may be incurred on account of the fire insurance business will have the effect to give a monopoly of it to a few great companies, for, to accomplish any change in rates which would benefit the public, the cut in expenses must be such as to render it certain that the small and weak company would get little business, as it could not afford a larger inducement to the agents than what the larger companies are willing to pay. The larger companies would consequently get the best of the business, and would otherwise conduct their business at a less proportionate expense, as the ratio of fixed charges need be much less for a large company than for a small one.

Personals

DR. I. IVERSON, assistant actuary of the Government Life Insurance Institution of Copenhagen, Denmark is now in Canada. For four months Dr. Iverson has been studying life insurance methods in the United States, and in Canada he has a similar mission with regard to Canadian companies.

MR. F. W. P. RUTTER, general manager of the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Company has been elected president of the Insurance Institute of Great Britain and Ireland for the ensuing year and in succession to Mr. S. Stanley Brown, general manager of the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation. Mr. James Ostler, Manchester secretary of the Northern Assurance Company, has been elected honorary treasurer of the Institute in the place of the late Mr. T. A. Bentley.

MR. FRED. W. PACE, of Winnipeg, who is local branch manager in that city for the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company, and the Manitoba Assurance Company, passed through Montreal a few days ago on his way home from a visit to Great Britain and the Continent on which he has been absent some three months. This is Mr. Pace's first visit to the old land. Speaking of the fire insurance business in Great Britain, he mentioned that the competition is very keen for business and that some 50 new companies, the majority of which are non-tariff, have been formed within a year or two. He was greatly impressed with the solidity of everything, although to his mind it lacked the vastness to be found in Canada. Mr. Pace also stated that the better class of English people are now beginning to realize the great importance of this part of the Empire—Canada—and its vast possibilities. Speaking of the West, he says that a good class of emigrants are coming out. Mr. Pace is delighted to get back again to his Canadian home. He says that there is a vastness and freedom about Canada, the absence of which is noticeable in the old land.

THE ALASKA BEDDING COMPANY's factory and warehouse at Winnipeg was damaged by fire on Wednesday afternoon. Insurance particulars not yet to hand.