

## THE CANADIAN BOARD OF MARINE UNDERWRITERS.

There has recently been organized, as a Branch of the Montreal Board of Trade, an Association known as the Canadian Board of Marine Underwriters, whose special aim will be to secure beneficial interchange of views upon, and consideration of, matters pertaining to the general conduct of marine insurance, such as,—

(1) The selection of correspondents in various parts of the world, for attention to wrecked and damaged property, and such protection thereof as may be duly authorized.

(2) Measures for procurement and use of early and accurate information of shipwreck or other disaster.

(3) To promote or oppose legislative and other measures affecting the interests of Underwriters, and with a view thereto to petition Parliament, and to appear before Parliament, or any other body or authority, administrative or judicial, by counsel or otherwise, and to take such other steps and proceedings as may be deemed expedient for giving effect to the views of the Board.

(4) To investigate and prevent frauds practised, or attempted to be practised, or supposed to have been practised, or to be intended with respect to ships, cargoes, freights, or other subjects of marine insurance, or in relation to insurance thereon, and affecting the interests of Underwriters, and the wrongful converting or disposal of or dealing with derelict property, and, so far as legally may be, to take or promote proceedings for the punishment of persons concerned in such frauds or wrongful acts.

(5) The principles and rules of average adjustments, and provisions for arbitration of differences arising upon such adjustments.

(6) Approval and recommendation of standard forms of policies, or insurance agreements, with a view to such uniformity as may be consistent with the essential rights of Underwriters and their Assured to freely contract with each other.

(7) Rules of classification of vessels for the purpose of insurance, and recommendation of such rules to local surveyors or organisations whose employment or duty it may be to survey and rate vessels.

(8) Rules for loading vessels with grain, live-stock, or other articles deemed suitable for special regulation.

(9) To promote, advance and protect the interests of Underwriters generally.

(10) To do all such lawful acts as are or may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above-mentioned objects or any of them.

The officers of the Canadian Board of Marine Underwriters for the current year are as follows:—President, W. B. Meikle (Managing Director, Western Assurance Co.); Vice-President, R. J. Dale (President, Dale & Co., Ltd.); Treasurer, R. L. Charlton (Western Assurance Co.); Chairman of Executive Committee, J. L. McCulloch (Vice-President, Dale & Co., Ltd.); Executive, R. Bickerdike (Western Assurance Co.); W. Cairns (Phoenix Assurance Co., Ltd. of London). All the above officers constitute the Executive Committee.

"Yes, indeed, I love fishing," said an insurance agent. "I enjoy having a line I can hold."

## INSURANCE COMPANIES' OFFICIALS AND CONSCRIPTION.

An important matter to the insurance companies, in connection with the coming into force of the Military Service Bill, is the effect of the calling-up of any class upon their staffs. The ranks of trained insurance officials have been steadily depleted ever since war broke out, through the self-sacrifice of many, who seeing their duty in going overseas, straightway took the rough way. There can be very few lines of business which have a better showing in this connection than insurance. Under present conditions, it will be a serious matter for the offices, if their staffs are to be further gravely depleted by *force majeure*, without the exercise of much discretion. The work of insurance is one of national importance, and in any mobilisation of the nation's resources it is essential that the insurance offices should continue to be adequately manned. In this connection, a recent question addressed to the President of the Local Government Board, in regard to policy in this matter in Great Britain is of interest. The question read:—"Whether, in dealing with claims for exemption from military service made by or on behalf of men with highly special training occupying positions of essential importance, *e.g.*, executive officers and principal managers in insurance companies, it is the policy of the Government to recognise the work of insurance as of national importance, and, if so, will he recommend the tribunals to give special consideration to applications for exemption of men who are indispensable to the companies employing them and whose services cannot be replaced?"

The answer to this question was as follows:—"Essential insurance business is, no doubt, of national importance, but it is for the tribunals, on the evidence placed before them, to decide according to the merits of each particular case whether or not it is expedient in the national interest to give exemption to any individual."

Presumably, the tribunals which are to be set up in Canada to decide on exemptions from the provisions of the Bill will, on the proper representations being made to them, appreciate the fact that insurance is of national importance and act accordingly. That the insurance companies have no desire in this connection to shirk their share of the inconveniences arising from the present condition of affairs, is very clearly shown by their past record. But as things are now, it is essential to the proper carrying-on of their business, an essential business, that a large amount of common sense should be used and a broad-minded view taken in regard to the calling up of their remaining staffs.

## THE GUARDIAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE COMPANY HAS CHANGED ITS TITLE TO THE GUARDIAN INSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA.

The Royal assent has recently been given to the Act allowing the Guardian Accident & Guarantee Company to change its title to the Guardian Insurance Company of Canada, with extended powers.

This popular and well-managed Company at present transacts Accident, Liability, Plate Glass and Burglary Insurance, and issues Guarantee Bonds.

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