

comprehensible. It shows, however, that even the press needs to study history and experience and to learn some of the laws and facts that determine the cost and safety of the life insurance contract.

SHORTCOMINGS OF ASSESSMENTISM.

Time will not permit of my dealing with this question as exhaustively as the subject demands. We have, perhaps, said enough, however, to show that the dilemma of assessmentism is a matter of momentous concern to those who have loved ones to protect, and the contingency is one which needs heroic treatment. That the remedies which have been applied from time to time are only half-way measures must be admitted from the fact that every few years the rates have to be raised.

These reflections and considerations lead us to summarize the shortcomings of assessmentism as follows:—(1) Insufficient rates, (2) deficient security, (3) deficient contracts, (4) lack of reserve funds, (5) doubt, uncertainty, vexation, disappointment and loss instead of contentment, satisfaction, compensation and great gain.

The Canadian Fire Record.

COBOURG, ONT.—Barn of W. Peterson at Morgans-town burned, January 15. Small insurance. Origin, overturned lantern.

HASTINGS, ONT.—Roof and upper story of Front street residence damaged, January 16. Insurance, \$500 in Northern. Origin, overheated stovepipe.

CHATHAM, N.B.—Fire consumed home of Arthur McDiarmid, together with all furnishings in upper flat, January 14. Loss, \$1,500. Origin unknown.

CALGARY, ALTA.—J. M. Bateson woodworking plant destroyed, January 19. Loss about \$60,000 covered by insurance. Origin, unknown. Water pressure poor.

PALMERSTON, ONT.—The Mansion House, a temperance hotel owned by John Boyd, of Preston, and run by Richard Graham destroyed, January 16. Origin unknown.

WAPELLA, SASK.—Queen's hotel owned by M. Harris destroyed. Loss on building \$5,740, on contents \$1,980. Insurance on building, North Empire, \$1,500; Northern, \$2,000; Occidental, \$500. On contents, Western Union, \$1,000.

WINNIPEG.—Stonewall Automobile Club destroyed, January 14. Loss includes valuable collection of curios valued at \$12,000, and insured for \$2,500. Building occupied by Great West Wire Fence Company, Lombard Street, damaged, January 14.

TORONTO.—Premises of Coleman Baking Company, 132 Euclid Avenue, damaged, January 15. Twenty-eight horses suffocated and 3,000 bags of flour damaged. Loss \$10,000. Clarke House, corner of King and Brant Streets, damaged. Loss, \$12,000. American Hat Frame Company's premises, 35 Church Street, damaged, January 15. Loss, \$7,000, covered by insurance. Origin, explosion of gasoline.

EDMONTON, ALTA.—Kerr building valued at \$75,000, occupied by Canadian Rubber Co., with contents of \$50,000 and La Chambre block, valued with contents at \$50,000, with other property destroyed, January 16. Two lives lost. Insurance on the Kerr building owned by W. A. Kerr, of the Brackman-Kerr Milling Company, totals \$45,000, divided as follows: Hartford, \$25,000; Canadian Fire, \$5,000;

Phoenix of Hartford, \$15,000. Origin, unknown. Poor water supply.

NEW MICHEL, B.C.—Dwelling owned and occupied by Blanche Griffiths destroyed. Loss on building \$1,200, on contents \$1,000. Insurance on building in Phoenix of London, \$1,000, on contents, nil. Dwelling owned and occupied by Helena Muellor destroyed. Loss on building \$1,500, on contents \$1,500. Insurance \$1,000 each on building and contents in Phoenix of London and \$500 on contents in Guardian.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN, ALTA.—Fire which originated in basement of Queen's Hotel, January 21, wiped out following:—Jones, Graham & O'Brien's dry goods store, loss \$20,000; Queen's Hotel, loss \$70,000; A. M. Sutherland's drug store, loss \$10,000; Carscaden's Hardware store, loss \$15,000; Wright's Liquor Store, \$10,000; Taylor's Jewelry Store, loss \$5,000. It is estimated that seventy-five per cent. of the loss, which is placed altogether at \$130,000, is covered by insurance.

DAUPHIN, MAN.—Malcolm Block destroyed. Occupied by W. J. Stewart's general store, drug store, J. E. Wallwin's clothing store and others. Loss on building \$8,119, insurance, Commercial Union, \$10,000; North West Fire, \$10,000; Law Union & Rock, \$5,000. Loss on contents of general store, \$9,250, insurance, Occidental, \$6,500; Royal, \$3,000 and \$2,000 each in Anglo-American, Calumet, Guardian and Montreal-Canada; \$500 in Royal Exchange. Loss on drug store, contents \$4,800; fixtures \$4,080, insurance, \$2,000 each in Canadian, Norwich Union and Royal Exchange; \$1,500 in Factories and \$1,000 each in Commercial Union and another company. Insurance on clothing store, contents and fixtures, Yorkshire, \$3,000; Liverpool and London and Globe, \$2,000; Northern, \$2,000; Fidelity-Phoenix, \$1,500 and Hartford, \$1,000. Loss on contents and fixtures amounted to 80 per cent. of insurance.

MONTREAL.—House of Mr. D. McK. Rowat, 522 Lansdowne Avenue, Westmount, destroyed, January 19. Origin, hot ashes. Factory of Thomas Davidson Mfg. Co., Delisle Street, Ste. Cunegonde, damaged, January 19. Fire took place in an airshaft. Loss, \$2,000. Premises of Canadian Tungsten Lamp Co., and McCormick Biscuit Co., damaged, January 16. Loss \$100,000. Miss Edgar's school on Guy Street gutted, January 23. Loss, \$25,000. Originated in cupboard. Premises of Bass Fur Company, 516 St. Paul Street, damaged, January 22. Loss, \$60,000, including damage by smoke and water to stock of furs in adjoining building.

At the Commissioner's enquiry into fire in old Richelieu Hotel, St. Vincent Street, evidence showed that its originated accidentally from an oil stove.

BRANTFORD CORDAGE LOSS.

The following is a list of companies interested in the fire, which occurred on the 13th instant, in the warehouse of the Brantford Cordage Company, entailing a complete insurance loss. There is a suspicion that the origin of fire was incendiary.

Northern	\$ 5,000	Fidelity-Phoenix . . .	\$4,000
Norwich Union . . .	3,000	London Assurance . .	5,000
Ins. Co. of North America	3,000	Northwestern Na- tional	6,000
British America . . .	2,000	National Fire	6,000
York Fire	1,500	Nova Scotia	5,000
Liverpool	5,000	Yorkshire	5,000
L. & L. & G.	4,000	Aetna	5,000
North British	10,000	Continental	5,000
Hartford	5,000	Yorkshire	5,000
Yorkshire	4,000		
		Total	\$88,500