

Operation and maintenance of telephone system .....	1,039,859	1,171,687
King's printer's advance .....		6,460
Remissions .....	2,469	576
General administrative purposes ..		111,016
Total .....	\$ 6,752,502	\$ 8,303,806

The above statements do not include proceeds from sale of securities or expenditures made from capital account.

#### Railway Guarantees .

In addition to the actual debt, there are also guarantees of railway bonds, which are summarized in the statement, as follows:—

The building of railways within the borders of the province has been facilitated in the past by guaranteeing the bond issues of the railway companies in respect to such lines. These railways open for settlement a vast amount of valuable acreage and natural resources heretofore without facilities. Below is a statement giving particulars of these guarantees as at December 31st, 1918.

	Authorized Mileage par value	Mileage	Executed Mileage par value (guaranteed)	Mileage
Can. Nor. and Can. Nor. West. Rail- ways .....	\$36,066,000	2,292.4	\$22,244,250	1,437.37
Grand Trunk Paci- fic Railway ....	4,182,500	259.5	4,182,500	259.5
McArthur lines ...	19,100,000	935.	18,820,000	921.
Lacombe and Blind- man Valley Rail- way .....	273,700	39.1	273,700	39.1
Additional light railways .....	1,126,300	160.9	.....	....
	\$60,748,500	3,686.9	\$45,520,450	2,656.97

NOTE—With the taking over of the Canadian Northern Railway and the Canadian Northern Western Railway by the Dominion government the contingent liability of the province will be modified considerably.

The procedure with respect to guaranteed bonds is as follows: The debentures are secured by a first mortgage upon the lines of railway guaranteed and upon the rolling stock and equipment in connection therewith. The proceeds of the guaranteed securities are paid by the purchaser into a chartered bank to the credit of the provincial treasurer and are disbursed by him as construction work progresses, upon the presentation of certificates of an engineer appointed by the provincial government.

The province has therefore not only the security of the railway company, but also the actually constructed railway or the money in the bank as security against its guarantees. As the money deposited in the bank is expended, from time to time, the railway is thus completed to that extent, and, as stated above, the mortgage securing the debentures covers the railway and the money in the bank.

#### MANITOBA ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION

The Manitoba Assessment and Taxation Commission has for several months been making an investigation at different points in the province. On October 28th it adjourned in order to prepare its report for submission not later than December 5th. One of the members, W. H. Gardner, of Oldfield, Kirby & Gardner, took the view that the commission had not finished its work. The chairman, E. M. Wood, pointed out, however, that the evidence had all been secured; he intimated that, in his view, the provincial succession duties are too low. Mr. Gardner thought that the commission should take up such matters as the corporation, amusement, and railway taxes, licenses, mail order taxes and other sources of revenue.

#### FINANCE MINISTER WILL ADDRESS INSURANCE MEN

The international aspect of the program for the thirteenth annual convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, at the Hotel Astor, New York, on December fourth and fifth, is emphasized by the announcement that Sir Henry Drayton, the new Canadian Minister of Finance, has accepted an invitation to be present and make an address. His topic will be in harmony with the general theme of the convention, which will deal with various post-war problems. He probably will speak along the line of "Some Canadian Reconstruction Problems." As is customary, the executives of all of the Canadian life insurance companies have been invited to be present at the meeting and, from the acceptances already received, it is evident that Canada will be well represented.

The convention will give due consideration to the subject of the unprecedented demand for life insurance on the part of the American public during the current year. The significance of this remarkable increase will be discussed from the actual experience of the companies. The housing problem, with its ramifications in nearly every town and city, will be another important subject receiving attention from the convention. The companies are now contributing up-to-date statistics as to how the investments of life insurance companies have been, and are, associated with meeting this problem. The increasing contribution of life insurance toward meeting the readjustment problems of financing agriculture, will have a prominent place on the program. As with city mortgage loans, the companies are contributing their latest collective data as to farm mortgage loans, the significance of these loans being presented in connection with the discussion of this subject. The investor's side of the pending steam railroad situation, of deep concern to the policyholders of life insurance companies, will be presented, with a discussion which will comprehend the various remedies suggested for this vital reconstruction problem.

While the program is not complete, it has progressed to a point where the names of a number of the speakers and, in most cases, their respective subjects, can be given. These follow:—Theme of the meeting, "The Part of Life Insurance in the Problems of Reconstruction." "Mental vs. Material Reconstruction," Nicholas Murray Butler, LL.D., president, Columbia University, New York. "Some Canadian Reconstruction Problems," Sir Henry Drayton, Minister of Finance, Dominion of Canada, Ottawa. Address (topic to be announced later), Hon. Atlee Pomerene, United States Senate, Washington, D.C. "The Railroad Problem," Mr. Howard Elliott, president, Northern Pacific Railway Company, New York. "The Significance of the Increasing Volume of Life Insurance," Hon. William A. Day, president, Equitable Life Assurance Society, New York. "The Problem of Housing the American People," Mr. Frederick H. Ecker, vice-president, Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, New York. "Policyholders' Contribution to Agricultural Readjustment," Mr. Louis Breiling, treasurer, Union Central Life Insurance Company, Cincinnati, O. Address (title to be announced later), Hon. Joseph G. Brown, Insurance Commissioner of Vermont, and president, National Convention of Insurance Commissioners, Montpelier, Vt. "Protecting the Public by Informing the Investor," Hon. Huston Thompson, Federal Trade Commissioner, Washington, D.C.

#### OBJECT TO MOTION-PICTURE TAX

Protests against the federal tax on motion-picture films and the methods of collection were registered at the fourth annual convention of the Motion-picture Exhibitors' League of the maritime provinces, which opened in St. John, N.B., on October 29th. The convention decided to urge upon the government a more equitable plan for collecting this tax. A memorial praying for exemption from all film taxes for theatres in towns of 5,000 or less will be forwarded to the government.