

they mean to strengthen their position as a body as much as possible. In the meantime, State supervision of insurance has been its curse for many a year, for it has been expensive, complicated and annoying, and has not resulted in the conserving of the interests of the people, after all.

Foreign Companies and Casualty Business.

It seems to be quite the fashion of late for the great foreign companies to "tack on" casualty departments, the theory probably being that they can use their great agency forces already in the field to help swing a good deal of the casualty business which is now being written by other companies. This makes a new means of competition which the regular casualty companies will find it very hard to meet or overcome. It must be remembered, however, that the casualty field is very large, and that it has as yet not been thoroughly worked, either in this country, or any other. The Commercial Union has already acquired the control of the Ocean Accident, and among other prominent companies which may establish casualty branches in this country, or perhaps organize separate companies, are the Royal, the London & Lancashire, and the Liverpool & London & Globe.

Notes.

It is hardly likely that the Fire Underwriters' Association will continue, as the necessary backing which was proposed in the original proposition has been found wanting. The Eastern Union, however, will probably continue, although all fire underwriting organizations among the companies seem to be waning in interest and power.

It is understood that the Yorkshire Insurance Company, of York, England, will soon begin to write surplus lines in the United States, through Frank and DuBois.

An event of the month has been the re-insurance by the great National, of Hartford, of the risks of the Shawnee Fire Insurance Company, of Topeka, Kans., after unwholesome developments had taken place in the affairs of the latter company.

Recent returns from Europe include Mr. P. D. McGregor, western manager of the Queen Insurance Company, and Mr. A. M. Thornburn, U. S. secretary of the Sun Insurance Office.

The fire insurance fraternity greatly regrets the recent death of President Marshall S. Driggs, of the Williamsburg City Fire Insurance Company, who passed away suddenly at the age of seventy-six. Mr. Driggs left an estate valued at \$1,000,000.

A recent arrival in this city is Mr. Wm. R. Halliday, an actuary, who for seventeen years, has been with the North British & Mercantile in its life department abroad.

A notable announcement by the Metropolitan Life outlines a plan which involves relief from future premium payments in case of total and per-

manent disablement of the policyholder, if this occurs before he is sixty years of age.

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With reference to the statement that the Travelers', of Hartford, has entered suit in Montreal against the Travellers Life Assurance Company of Canada, alleging damage due to a similarity in name, there are many instances of just as great similarity among several different companies of the United States. For example, there are several "German-Americans," a number which include the word "Home" in the title, etc.

QUERIST.

New York, October 5, 1910.

From Western Fields.

Vancouver's Rapid Progress—Interesting Figures—Home Bank and British Columbia—Fire Fighting Affairs.

The extraordinary developments of Vancouver are very strikingly shown in some facts regarding the city which have been sent us by a Vancouver business firm. It is stated that in order to reach a population of half-a-million in ten years, the city will not have to grow so fast as it has been growing during the last three years, and that while the city now has one transcontinental railway, in three years there will be at least three. The following figures which show remarkable growth are of interest:—

Customs Statistics of Vancouver.

1901			
Exports	Imports	Duty	Tl. Revenue
\$2,756,985	\$271,666	\$900,564.53	\$992,462.53
1905			
\$5,009,679	\$5,685,924	\$1,449,319.12	\$1,454,034.77
1909.			
\$5,848,378	\$11,901,425	\$2,580,407.18	\$2,981,533.84

Vancouver Clearing House Returns.

1904	\$ 77,029,898	1907	\$191,734,482
1905	88,460,391	1908	183,083,446
1906	132,606,358	1909	290,098,975

Vancouver Building Record.

1906	\$4,308,410	1908	\$5,990,893
1907	5,639,744	1909	7,258,567

The building figures, it is stated, do not include Vancouver's suburbs and most of Vancouver's residences are built outside the city limits. Apropos of bank clearings at Vancouver all records were broken recently when the weekly return was issued showing that for the week ending September 22 last, the bank clearings were \$10,188,404. This figure exceeds by \$750,768 the previous record which was established on May 5, with \$9,428,636. The increase of this week's clearings over the corresponding week of last year is \$4,280,746 for in 1909 the returns were \$6,376,846. For the corresponding week of 1908 the figures were \$4,376,846. These figures, together with those given above, show very clearly the enormous headway which is being made by British Columbia's commercial capital.

The Home Bank and British Columbia.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mason, General Manager of the Home Bank of Canada, has lately been visit-