

INSURANCE COMPANY WINS

A case of considerable interest to fire insurance Companies was concluded in Cornwall, Ont., on the 12th instant in the County Court, before Judge O'Reilly, wherein Edward A. Rupert, of Northfield, in this county, brought action against the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co. to recover \$600, the amount of a policy of insurance on a house and barn on a lot south of the village of Northfield, which were destroyed by fire on September 1st, 1916. The company defended the action on the ground of misrepresentation as to the value of the buildings at the time the policy was taken out.

It was brought out in the evidence that Rupert first purchased the buildings and lot for about \$120 and borrowed \$250 with which to pay the first sum, representing to his loaner that he had paid \$500 for the property. The latter afterwards learned the true facts and refused to advance a further sum asked for by Rupert. The mortgagee then sold the property to a Mr. Wereley, a cousin of Rupert, for \$160 in Rupert's presence, and Wereley in turn sold it back to Rupert for \$500. Rupert then went to the local agent of the London and Lancashire and represented the buildings to be worth \$900, and on the strength of this representation he secured a policy for \$600. Within a few months the buildings were destroyed by fire and the insurance company refused to pay the claim.

After hearing much evidence the jury returned a verdict in favor of the company and Judge O'Reilly dismissed the action with costs.

G. T. Gogo and J. C. Milligan, Cornwall, for plaintiff; R. S. Robertson and J. W. Pickup, both of Toronto, for the defendant company.

SUN INSURANCE OFFICE.

Changes at Head Office

The announcement is made that at the close of the present year Mr. George E. Mead will relinquish his position of Manager and Secretary of the Sun Insurance Office, London, England. Mr. Mead's insurance career of 54 years has been spent entirely in the service of the Sun. In 1912 Mr. Mead filled the position of president of the Insurance Institute of London. Now in his 70th year, he will in his retirement carry with him the warm wishes of the insurance world. The closing years of his career have indeed been years of strain, under which many a younger man might reasonably have given way. It speaks volumes for Mr. Mead's patriotism that he should have remained at his post to see the dawn of peace. May he now be blessed with good health for many years to come to enjoy the rest he so well deserves.

Mr. F. H. Mellersh joint sub-manager and assistant secretary of the Company, will also retire at the same time after a service of nearly 50 years, and carries with him in his retirement the hearty good wishes of all.

To succeed Mr. G. E. Mead as manager and secretary, the directors of the Sun Insurance Office have appointed Mr. Frederick White, who for the past six years has held the position of joint-sub-manager and assistant secretary of the Company. For a period of five years previously Mr. White

acted as assistant secretary, his position prior to then being that of foreign superintendent.

The directors of the Sun Insurance Office have appointed Mr. William W. Otter-Barry, who for several years past has been acting as assistant secretary to the Fire Offices' Committee, to be sub-manager and assistant secretary of the Company. Mr. Otter-Barry, it will be remembered collaborated a few years ago with Mr. F. Baker Welford in the production of an excellent work on the "Law relating to Fire Insurance."

ALLIANCE ASSURANCE CO., OF LONDON, ENGLAND.

Absorbs the Bankers Guarantee Trust.

The policy of the Alliance Assurance Company to extend the area of its operations by the absorption of other concerns, has also been marked by the absorption of, such concern; only, having high class connections. In continuation of this policy the Alliance is to be congratulated on its acquisition, of the Bankers Guarantee Trust Company, one of the most wealthy concerns in Great Britain which not only means a large accession of remunerative, fidelity guarantee business, but also opens up new and valuable connections for the Company's other departments.

The Bankers Guarantee Trust was established in 1865 for the purpose of providing by means of a general co-operation amongst the persons employed in the Banks of Great Britain and Ireland a fund to guarantee their employers against the fraud and dishonesty of their clerks and servants. There is no share capital, but the Trust has considerable accumulated funds. The security which will be given to the banks in respect of policies will be substantially improved as they will also have behind them the resources of one of the strongest insurance offices in the world.

TOTAL WAR EXPENDITURE OF CANADA.

The total war expenditure of Canada to November 30 last was estimated at \$1,068,000,000. To March 31 it is estimated that it will reach \$1,290,000,000.

These figures are included in a statement the Minister of Finance has forwarded to Sir Robert Borden as to the war expenditure of Canada, and as to the annual pension burden which will result from the war.

In this statement maintenance of troops in France is calculated at six shillings per man, and not at the suggested increased rate of nine shillings and four pence. To this estimate should be added the amount of war outlay which will be incurred after March 31, 1919, which may exceed three hundred million dollars. The pension load is estimated at thirty million dollars per year, and probably more. Canada's net debt at March 31, 1914, was three hundred and thirty six millions, the net debt to March 31, 1919, is estimated at one billion and a half.

In addition to the above Canada will have large claims for indirect or consequential damage, as well as those arising out of the raids of German submarines upon Canadian fishing vessels. The final advertising for claims of this latter character is now being done by the Secretary of State.