

of the glass broken, and their contracts not stating any amounts as insured thereby, their returns do not show the amount of insurance effected during the year nor the amount in force at the end thereof.

Guarantee business was transacted by two Canadian, three British and two American companies.

Two companies, both American, are licensed to carry on a class of business not defined in the Insurance Act, but particularly described in the licenses of the companies concerned, and may be known as the business of guaranteeing and becoming security for the due performance of any office, trust, contract or agreement, executing and guaranteeing bonds, undertakings and obligations, including appeal and other bonds in legal actions and proceedings. This class of insurance is, for the sake of brevity and convenience, styled "contract insurance." Although not covered by the definition contained in the Insurance Act of guarantee insurance, it is analogous thereto, and might with propriety be considered a branch thereof, and it will probably be deemed desirable at an early day to enlarge the definition of guarantee insurance so as to include the same.

Burglary insurance, which is transacted to a considerable extent in Great Britain, was introduced into Canada twelve years ago. On June 14, 1893, a license was issued to the Dominion Burglary Guarantee Company (Limited), now the Dominion Guarantee Company, Limited, whose head office is at Montreal, to transact the business of guaranteeing against loss or damage by burglary or house-breaking, and guaranteeing against loss of jewelry, bullion and other movable property deposited with it for safekeeping. This company, which was incorporated by an Act of Parliament of Canada, assented to on April 1, 1893, was at December 31, 1904, the only company licensed by the insurance department to carry on the business of burglary guarantee insurance in Canada. On May 15, 1905, a license was granted to an American company, the Fidelity & Casualty Company of New York, to transact this class of insurance.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

THE DAWN OF LIBERTY IN RUSSIA.—Under the terrible pressure of a national revolt against the system of Government in Russia, the Czar has issued a manifesto, which, after declaring it his supreme duty to adopt measures for the pacification of all his people, goes on as follows:

"We direct our Government to carry out our inflexible will in the following manner:

"(1) To extend to the population the immutable foundations of civic liberty based on the inviolability of person, freedom of conscience, speech, union, and association.

"(2) Without suspending the ordered elections to the State Duma (Legislative Assembly) to invite to participation in the Duma so far as the limited time before the convocation of the Duma will permit, those classes of the population now completely deprived of electoral rights, leaving the ultimate development of the principle of the electoral right in general to the newly established legislative order of things."

The manifesto proceeds to declare no law enforceable without the sanction of the Duma, that the Government shall abstain from interfering with elections, that respect must be paid to the ideals of the great majority of society and not to the echoes of noisy groups and factions.

A significant clause in the Czar's manifesto reads: "It is especially important to secure the reform of the Council of the Empire on our electoral principle."

If that clause means all it says, or, what may be reasonably inferred from it, the Czar's manifesto puts an end to despotic Government in Russia, for hitherto the whole power and functions of Government in that Empire have been centred in the "Council of the Empire," which, in future, is to be formed on the electoral principle, and not on the mere will of the Czar.

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AN OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION OF THE CZAR'S MESSAGE.—Count Witte, who seems to have had his eyes opened and his mind broadened by his visit to the United States, has given an interpretation of the manifesto. He regards the problem sought to be solved as, the establishment of legislative forms to guarantee civil, political, and economic liberty. He regards as one principle to be observed by the legislature, "the avoidance of repressive measures in respect of proceedings which do not openly menace society or the State, such resistance being based upon law and moral unity."

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THE POWER BEHIND THE THRONE.—Count Witte, of course, does not say directly that the Czar's conferment of liberty upon his subjects was caused by dread of revolution, but, when the following is read between the lines it is evident that, the manifesto was inspired by fear and not by a recognition of the inherent, inalienable right of a nation to self-government. Count Witte, says:

"Confidence must be placed in the political tact of Russian society. It is impossible that society should desire a condition of anarchy which would threaten, in addition to all the horrors of civic strife—*the dismemberment of the Empire.*"

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THAT CONTINGENCY WAS BEING THREATENED.—The Russian Empire was in the throes of a violent revolt against all authority, had the situation not been changed there was most imminent danger of