

BLUE GOOSE—QUEBEC POND.

The Quebec Pond of the Order of the Blue Goose, held its Annual Dinner on Saturday evening, Dec. 21, 1918, at the Ritz Carlton Hotel. There were about 50 members and guests present on the occasion.

After the toast of the King had been duly honoured, Most Loyal Grand Gander G. C. Morris, (recently elected to preside over the Quebec Pond), thanked the members for the honour conferred on him, and expressed the hope that each member would show his interest in promoting the interests of the Pond by attending the regular meetings.

Mr. Morris then explained the objects of the order, which he stated are primarily for the promotion of good fellowship and a broad spirit of charity amongst the members, and this eventually works out in a practical way to the benefit of the Companies, with whom the different members of the Pond are connected, and he therefore felt, that it would be to the material advantage of every Insurance Company doing business in the City of Montreal, to be represented in the Pond by their Senior Officers and Inspectors, as members.

For the ensuing year, Mr. Morris continued, we propose on the second Friday of each month, to hold mid-day luncheons at which addresses on Fire Insurance and other subjects pertinent to the business will be given by different gentlemen, and we would ask you all to keep one hour that day free, as much as possible, in order that we may always have a large and encouraging attendance to greet the different speakers at these meetings.

This year we are endeavouring to inaugurate a series of classes along educational lines; and with that object in view a course of evening lectures on matters of importance to the profession, is being arranged for by the gentlemen in charge of that committee, and I can strongly recommend these lectures to your attention, which will be both interesting and instructive.

We have also named social and recreation Committees; our idea being that the Pond should endeavour to develop both the social and educational ideas and desires of our members.

We are starting out modestly, and we will always welcome suggestions from the members, as above all we want you to take a keen interest in the activities of the Pond, and with this interest, and support, we hope, at the end of our term, to turn over the affairs of the Pond to our successors, in the same flourishing condition as they were when we took office. In concluding an interesting address Mr. Morris said: I do not wish to detain you, but I feel that we can hardly allow to pass unnoticed the termination of the tremendous, world shaking events, that have taken place during the last four years, and I am sure that you all feel with me that we must humbly thank God for granting the Victory of Righteousness over wrong, and we are all proud to know that Britain still rules, not only the waves, but all that Great Empire of which she stood possessed, at the start of the war, and that not a yard of our Territory has been dominated by the Hun, as was without doubt the intention of our ruthless and treacherous enemy in the days before the war.

The remarks of Mr. Morris, M.L.G., regarding the proposed series of Evening Classes, were supplemented by Mr. J. D. Simpson, who is not only a talented speaker, but also has the advantage of being highly trained in his profession, as a fire insurance official.

These classes, Mr. Simpson said, will be held on two evenings per week, a special class for Members of the Pond only, embracing The Principles and Practice of Schedule Rating. The other, or auxiliary, class will include the following subjects:

Fire Surveying and Report Writing.

Short Studies of the Statutory Conditions.

Fire Loss Adjustment.

Letterpress Printing and Lithographing Works.

This class is open not only to Members, but to all employees of Fire Insurance Companies, and the officers appeal to all managers of the companies to assist and encourage their staffs to attend the class regularly. It is hoped that this effort, chiefly designed for the benefit of younger members of the profession in Montreal, will receive the support needful to make it a success, and which the officers venture to think it deserves. This beginning is necessarily along modest lines but in due time, as the class takes definite form and progresses, we are assured of the co-operation and assistance of acknowledged authorities on the various subjects to be dealt with, such as Chemistry, Electricity, Building Construction and Law.

It is also hoped to form the nucleus of a library for the benefit of students. The Insurance Institute of Toronto have kindly given a complete set of their Transactions and several members have promised books on technical or general subjects.

If any gentleman possesses a set or odd volumes of the Journal of the Federation of Great Britain and Ireland, the Officers can promise they shall be used to the fullest advantage together with any other books of reference and instruction.

Mr. Peter Bercovitch, K.C., M.L.A., was present as the guest of the evening and gave a very interesting address on Statutory Conditions in the Province of Quebec.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

Fire at Portage la Prairie, Man.—On Dec. 27th the grain elevator of Woodward and Company was destroyed by fire. Insured with 57 companies carrying 1-53rd each insurance on building \$78,500 loss total, on contents \$145,000. Total insurance carried \$223,500. Loss on contents estimated at \$60,000.

Fire at Toronto.—On Dec. 29th a fire broke out in the Lloyd George Apartments, 160 Huron Street, entailing a loss of about \$4,000.

Fire at St. John, N.B.—On Dec. 27th, a fire destroyed the new military barracks on Partridge Island at the entrance to St. John harbour. Loss about \$15,000.

Fire at Winnipeg.—On Dec. 22nd a fire completely gutted the Meagher block, Provencher Street. Loss about \$30,000.

Fire at Chapeau, Ont.—On Dec. 19th a fire destroyed the Roman Catholic Church at Chapeau. The building was frame construction. Loss about \$15,000. Insurance \$9,000.

Fire at Lakefield, Ont.—On Dec. 27th a fire destroyed the two story brick structure known as the Lakefield Town Hall. Loss about \$12,000. partly insured.