

made a speciality, the ratio of actual to expected claims was only 59 per cent.

The Law Union & Rock, the new combination of the Law Union & Crown & Rock offices is distributing a bonus of 35s per cent. p. a., as a result of the quinquennial valuation. The amount thus distributed is just over £400,000, and the rate of bonus compares with 32s last time.

The Municipal Mutual Insurance, Ltd., a combination started by London local authorities, but now including a number of others, has just issued its sixth annual report. The premium income has increased from £10,756 to £12,267; the reserve fund from £8,191 to £10,174, and the total resources from £18,947 to £22,241, about forty authorities have joined during the year. The society re-insures all its risks with nine British companies. —METRO.

London, 5th March, 1910.

From Western Fields.

SPRING RUSH OF IMMIGRATION.

Activity of Railways on both sides of Border—Provincial and Municipal Loans—New Pacific Liners—Manitoba Elevator Bill was Hotly Discussed.

The spring rush of overseas immigration began a week ago, with the arrival of over 200 immigrants from the Allan liner Hesperian. The C. P. R. officials say that they are experiencing the greatest influx of settlers in years so early in the season, and from reports received from the East, 1910 will easily be the greatest in the history of the road. The homeseekers' excursions from the East will not start until April, and the dates for the United States excursions have not yet been announced. The C. P. R.'s offer of "semi-ready" farms to British homeseekers is one of the greatest drawing cards Canada has ever offered.

The irrigated lands of Alberta are likely to appeal strongly to European agriculturists accustomed to intensive farming—especially to the thrifty inhabitants of canal-veined Holland. It is not surprising therefore that an advance guard of five hundred Hollanders is reported as now taking up land in the West.

Representatives of the party have been in communication with the commissioner of immigration for some time. All are experienced farmers, and it is expected that those who locate here this year will only be the forerunners of a big influx from the land of dykes and canals.

On Monday of this week, in addition to the party from Holland, there were 150 people from the mother land on a special, and 75 from Sweden. On Tuesday there was another C. P. R. special with 200 Britishers on board. The regular express from Montreal has been in two sections, the first section on Monday being composed of immigrants from the steamers Virginia and Corinthian. Altogether on one day there were 600 immigrants en route to Western Canada.

American and Canadian Railway Activity.

American lines vie with Canadian in their eagerness to tap the Middle West. It is understood in Winnipeg that the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway Company have secured right-of-way through North Dakota as far as Neche, on the U. S. line; and

that this road intends building into Winnipeg. The route indicated by the option-getting activities of supposed agents of the company would bring the line up through a Northwesterly direction from Gretna to a point West of Sperling, from where it would be run into Winnipeg between the Brandon branch of the Canadian Northern and the Glenboro branch of the C. P. R.

The Grand Trunk Pacific will early in the summer take over the 1,200 miles of completed road between Winnipeg and Edmonton, and will arrange a regular schedule of passenger trains under the operating department. Hitherto, this long stretch of steel has been operated both for freight and passengers by the construction department, the service being chiefly designed for the carrying of settlers and freight. Naturally, with the taking of the line over by the passenger department, a much better service will be given.

In a comparatively short time, the Grand Trunk Pacific will have a fleet of fast modern boats plying along the Pacific Coast. Two are already completed, the Prince George and Prince Rupert. It is understood that they will be equal in speed and elegance to anything on the Western ocean.

The Prince Rupert will carry passengers and freight between Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle and Prince Rupert. The Prince George will either be put on the Northern run also, or will make the triangular run between Victoria, Vancouver and Seattle. It is expected that the first boat will reach Vancouver about the end of May and the second early in July.

A third boat, the Bruno, will make the run between Vancouver, the Queen Charlotte Islands and Portland Canal.

Forthcoming Winnipeg Loan.

At the Winnipeg Board of Control meeting at mid-week, Mayor Evans made the statement that the city had practically completed arrangements through the Bank of Montreal for the issue of the city's stock for this year, amounting to \$2,500,000 at the price of 103 1-2, thus netting the city over 101 per cent., the highest figure that the city ever obtained. Last year the city issued its stock at 100, gross, and the year before the stock was issued at 96. The price is accounted for by taking the market at an opportune time, and also because of the fact that the credit of the city has been steadily advancing on the London markets. This issue will be used for general works, local improvements and power development, and the extra amount over par will total up to about \$30,000. The money will come in instalments through the Bank of Montreal.

Acting Premier Rogers announced a week ago that the Government had decided to ask the Legislature to authorize the issue of \$2,000,000 provincial bonds for the purpose of establishing the proposed Government system of elevators. A grant of fifty thousand dollars was asked for immediately for preliminary expenses.

Alberta Politics.

Forestalling the insurgents, Premier Rutherford this week gave notice of a resolution for the complete investigation of the Great Waterways Railway deal bonds, and all by a judicial committee. The resolution names Hon. Justices Scott, Harvey and Beck. This to an extent satisfies the insurgents, though they wanted Chief Justice Sifton alone to handle the investigation.