

54

CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION MEETINC.

FRANK HEIGHT, T. L. ARMSTRONG, Inspectors.

The agenda of last week's annual meeting of the Canada Fire Underwriters' Association contained no very serious business. No advances were

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made in rates, but a decline was effected in rates upon the better class of modern sawmills and upon these only. The mortality upon them has been light of late. Practically all other business done was of a routine character.

Officers elected for the current year were: President, A. M. M. Kirkpatrick, of the Home; 1st vice-president, R. McD. Paterson, Phoenix of London; 2nd vice-president, P. A. McCallum, of the Hartford. The secretary continues to be Mr. Robertson.

to be Mr. Robertson. Those present were: F. W. Evans, the Aetna; A. M. M. Kirkpatrick, the Home; P. H. Sims, British American; J. H. Labelle, Royal and Queen; G. S. Minty, Rochester German; James McGregor, the Commercial Union; J. Gardner Thompson, of Liverpool and Globe and the Manitoba; T. C. Moore, German-American; T. D. Richardson, of the New York Underwriters; R. McD. Paterson, Phoenix; H. M. Lambert, of the Guardian; Lyman Roots, Hartford; Alf. W. Wright, London & Lancashire Fire & Mercantile; W. Kennedy, of the London Assurance; Harold Hampson, the North American; Randall Davidson, of the North British & Mercantile; R. W. Tyre, of the Northern; John B. Laidlaw, the Norwich Union; J. W. Patley, Phoenix of Hartford; J. C. McCaig, mond & Drummond Insurance pany; W. H. Franckum, Scottish W. National; H. M. Blackburn, Sun; T. L. Morrisey, Union; C. C. Foster, Western; J. H. Leuchan, of Chicago, representing the Phoenix of Brooklyn in the West.

FROM OTHER PENS.

Jeremiahs of finance might cheer the country with their silence if they cannot inebriate it with words of hope. Canadians would sooner take the times as they come than have this country's future foretold by the prophets of gloom and yet more gloom.—Toronto Telegram.

The most interesting recent event in local affairs was the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Dominion Steel Company held yesterday afternoon in Montreal. The interesting feature was the address of the president, My. Plummer, who touched upon the real sticking point in the negotiations, namely the actual cost of production of coal by the Coal Company. This is the vital point in these negotiations. It might be advisable for the Steel Company to forego a small proportion of the cash indebtedness of the Coal Company under the judgments yet it would be folly for it to mortgage its plant with a contract for coal which was in excess of a profit over the cost of production of more than a reasonable amount under all the conditions. The talk of coercion in the case of a refusal of the Steel Company to be bullied into a settlement seems to us far fetched. The Governseems to us far fetched. The Govern-ment is not going to carry paternalism to that point, neither are the banks in-terested going to insist upon what ap-pears to the directors and shareholders pears to the directors and shareholders of one company a gross injustice, their view being shared by many disinter-ested and capable individuals. As to the "bunkum", being talked by some people to the effect that the Steel Com-pany will not be able to collect its judg-ment, that the Coal Company will in-stitute fresh actions which will embar-rass and delay the matter, this is only given credence to by those who are very given credence to by those who are very ignorant of the stability of legal insti-tutions in Canada. Once the Privy Council gives judgment the matter is settled for all time and the Coal Com-pany will pay forthwith.—Cronyn & Company's Circular.



Volume 42.

July 42