

closed by Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the C.P.R.

Building activity in Canada, as in the United States, is just now phenomenal. The twenty Canadian centres reporting to Construction show an average gain for August of over one-third upon last year. From the twenty centres August permits totalled \$4,665,697 as against \$3,457,927 last year.

In the West, Calgary showed a gain of 188 per cent., Winnipeg 85 per cent., and Vancouver 56 per cent.

From Across the Line.

NEW YORK INSURANCE LETTER.

Convention of Local Fire Agents—Dispute as to Casualty Reinsurance Liability—Personal Items—Special Correspondence of THE CHRONICLE.

The event of importance in fire insurance circles last week was the meeting of the National Association of Local Fire Insurance Agents, which occurred at Atlantic City, New Jersey, and which is so well known as a resort for New Yorkers that it may be considered as part of the city. At any rate fire insurance underwriters in this vicinity were very much interested in the convention, as they have been in the doings of the association ever since its inception, fourteen years ago. So far as your correspondent can learn, there seems to be a decadence of interest and influence in this association. It was started by several strong minded men who thought the local agents had grievances and wrongs which ought to be righted, and it was at first thought that serious controversy with the companies might be the result of its formation. Better counsels have prevailed, however, and although the companies are watching closely the movements of the agents, no conflict has occurred as yet to disturb amicable relations. At the present time the association has a secretary at a salary of \$6,000 per year, and has also established what it calls a working capital, but this working capital is so small that it will not go far towards maintaining the expenses of the association. The attendance this year was smaller than usual, and although an effort has been put forward to increase the membership and stir up the interest, we doubt if the decline already begun can be stopped. It is true that the local agent has his rights which are bound to be respected by the company, but he cannot expect to control the underwriting policy of our great corporations which are well officered and well managed, as a rule. It is understood that this association was started with a view to dictating to the companies, but the "bluff" did not work. Except as a publishing bureau to issue its official organ and so maintain relationships of importance between the various agents and agents' associations, we cannot see any very useful function that this association performs.

Casualty Insurance Case.

A curious case in casualty insurance has arisen in this city. The Casualty Company of America

assumed a risk, a portion of which it re-insured in several other companies. The insured was reported as totally disabled, and all the companies, including those assuming the re-insurance, paid their *pro rata* portion of the loss. Afterwards it appears that the case turned out to be one of only partial disability and the family of the insured man repaid a portion of the insurance to the Casualty Company of America which returned *pro rata* amounts of it to the reinsurance office. The company refuses, however, to further reimburse the re-insuring companies, which now claim that the full amount of the fraud perpetrated was considerably greater than the refund secured. The re-insuring companies, the United States Casualty, the Preferred Accident, the Ocean Accident, and the Empire State Surety, may possibly sue the Casualty Company of America, and the result of the matter will be watched with keen interest by those interested in casualty insurance, as it is a very unique and curious case.

Miscellaneous Notes.

Much interest is excited in the announcement of the retirement of United States Manager A. D. Irving, of the Phoenix Assurance Company, who has served thirty years in that position. After December 31, Mr. Irving will be succeeded by L. P. Bayard, who has long held a responsible position with the company.

A recent notable arrival in this country from Europe was Lord Claud Hamilton, chairman of the board of directors of the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation, who immediately proceeded to the United States headquarters of the company, which are in Boston.

A recent arrival in this country is Manager L. Lindner, of the Frankfort Marine, Accident & Plate Glass Insurance Company, of Frankfort, Germany.

Resident Secretary J. F. Edmonds, of the mountain department of the Commercial Union, at Denver, is a visitor in this city.

U. S. Manager Charles Lyman Case, of the London Assurance Corporation, sailed recently for Europe.

Among recent visitors in this city were U. S. Manager H. W. Letton, of the Prussian National Insurance Company, whose headquarters are in Chicago, Mr. A. E. Forrest, secretary of the North American Accident Insurance Company, of Chicago, and a large number of local agents who were attendance at the recent convention at Atlantic City.

Manager Carl F. Schreiner, who has charge of the foreign branch of the Munich Reinsurance Company in London and also the branch in New York, recently arrived from Europe.

Samuel R. Weed, of the well known agency firm of Weed & Kennedy, arrived in this city a few days ago from a three months' vacation in Europe.

Stock of the Continental Fire Insurance Company of this city recently sold at 1610.

There will be a general relaxation in business for the next two weeks, on account of the Hudson-Fulton Celebration, which continues in this city and vicinity from September 25 to October 9.

QUERIST.

New York, September 28, 1909.