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"INSURANCE SOCIETY"

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THE CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

The General Meeting referred to in our last issue has taken place and may now be reckoned among the events of the past.

Mark Antony remarked in his oration over the body of Caesar "the evil which men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones," but we have great hopes that this dirge need not be chanted over the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, whose burial, from what we can gather, is not likely to occur just yet. We say "from what we can gather," for the meeting, lasting four days, was held with closed doors, the press not being admitted, and therefore we can only draw our conclusions from somewhat meagre data. Still the most important points decided in the controversy have of necessity come to light, and will soon be public property.

We are glad to learn that the Association has endeavored, in forming new rules and regulations, to blend the wisdom of the serpent with the mildness of the dove, not forgetting that its attitude towards the public should bear out the time honored maxim of "*suaviter in modo et fortiter in re.*" In plain English the Fire Insurance Managers desire to make it known that they are here to make money for their respective companies, but are perfectly willing to carry this out in a pleasant manner and upon fair and equitable principles.

We will now proceed to consider the subjects which occupied the attention of the Association at the late meeting, the

most representative meeting, in point of numbers and talent, ever held in Canada, taking these subjects in the order we gave last month.

1. **Rates.**—While it was not proposed to make any material alteration in existing rates, so far as regards towns of the higher class, yet a decided improvement was proposed and carried, by which the rates in "E" class towns Ontario, were raised to correspond with the same class in Quebec, and that these towns should comprise those provided with Hand Fire Engines and Tanks; another class "F" being made for those villages that have no fire protection whatever, the rates for such places to be about ten per cent. higher than "E" class. This movement we consider fair and reasonable, and insureds cannot justly complain of it.

Then we are pleased to observe that the rates on lumber have been advanced materially,—not before the change was much needed,—for we believe it will be admitted by every company in Canada that money has been lost in writing lumber during several years past. The advance will be one-quarter and three-quarters per cent upon present rates respectively, according to whether the policies are subject to average or not. These rates, be it understood, will not apply to the Chaudiere or similar large lumber districts, which are to be specially rated.

2. **The Average Clause.**—To meet the difficulties experienced by the offices in dealing with both *under* as well as *over* insurance it was proposed to adopt the co-insurance clause in towns properly provided with fire protection, and to supplement the three-fourths value clause to policies covering in towns where such protection is wanting. Our views upon this subject are so well known and have been so clearly enunciated in these columns that we do not propose going over the ground again on this occasion, but it is extremely gratifying to find those views so strongly, indeed almost unanimously, supported by the members of the Association; and although the final adoption of the clauses referred to (which we look upon as the keystone to the arch of fire underwriting in the present day) was postponed to the forthcoming annual meeting, still it was a great point gained to have the soundness of the principle admitted, and we have little doubt that the clauses will be passed in some shape or other before very long, in fact, we hear it whispered that the