

ferred to a case which had occurred at Vancouver recently, where there had been a dispute about the loss. The outside company declined to settle, and the insured could only have a writ issued to go where the company had residence. Even if a suit were started in a foreign country, the insured would find a different set of conditions from those which obtain under the local Act.

Mr. Bodwell emphasized the fact that the object of the board companies was not to create a monopoly in the province, but to have all the companies placed on the same footing by arranging that a deposit should be placed with the government. This would keep out companies that were not sound. If legislation were carried out, he believed there would be a substantial reduction in rates—because the measure would provide for such thorough investigation into causes of fires, as would materially lessen incendiarism throughout the province.

Then, too, as Mr. Day pointed out in the course of his evidence, unlicensed competition in many cases has the ultimate effect of increasing the cost of insurance—when there is taken into account the claim payments defaulted, or scaled down. Like Mr. Bodwell, Mr. Day said that the board of underwriters had no idea of urging restrictions that would limit the business in British Columbia to companies already licensed; all they asked was that outside companies should be compelled to do business on the same footing.

Mr. W. A. Lawson, another leading fire agent, stated in his evidence that at present there were 95 companies doing business in British Columbia, 83 of which were licensed, 51 of them being under Dominion license. As to the volume of business done by the unlicensed companies, he could give no estimate; nor as to the amount of insurance done by other American companies, which "rushed over from Seattle, took a few risks and dodged back again the same day"—in many cases, paying scant, or no attention to inspection of risks.

Altogether, nothing could more clearly point to the desirability of Provinces and Dominion getting together in the matter of uniform insurance regulation, than the course of the present British Columbia enquiry. The provincial-federal conference of this month will find matter for careful consideration in the evidence adduced. It reveals that in the West, even more than in the East, there is growing up an anomalous and dangerous system of dual control—and of no control—which if left uncorrected, threatens to make conditions more hampering to legitimate insurance interests than even the conflicting jurisdiction of individual States across the border.

A BUREAU OF PUBLICITY may, or may not be of use to a little one-horse town trying to discount its future. To a city like Montreal, a bureau of publicity is not only useless, but positively injurious. It is calculated to create the impression that the biggest city in Canada is still in the stage of development, at which it needs artificial booming and advertising. The proposition is not worth a moment's serious consideration. It is not in keeping with the standing and dignity of the Metropolitan City of Canada.

SOUTH AFRICAN WARRANTS took a sudden jump over the \$800 mark at Winnipeg, this week. Less than two weeks ago 14 were sold on the local exchange at \$720 and less.

LIFE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL.

Annual Dinner at Club Canadien Largely Attended this Week.

The annual dinner of the Life Underwriters' Association of Montreal was held on Monday night at the Club Canadien, the President, Mr. J. C. Tory, being in the chair. Some 120 were present, including a number of representatives from outside districts.

Mr. E. R. Machum, president of the Dominion Association, congratulated the Montreal Association on their phoenix-growth from the ashes of their old association. Mr. Machum reminded his hearers that the business of a life insurance agent was an honourable one, and, that, if any agent did not receive the honour that was due to him as a member of an honourable profession, the fault usually lay in his own personality, and not with those with whom he was endeavouring to do business.

Mr. T. P. Parkinson, in the course of his characteristic speech, had somewhat to say to the railways for discriminating between the commercial traveller and the insurance agent, and he quoted figures to prove that whereas the commercial man was granted privileges by the railroads on account of the freight which his firm might ship over the road, such men or their employers had not one tithe of the capital invested in those railroads which the various insurance companies had. From which he argued, that, if the insurance companies help materially to build railroads they are entitled to as much consideration and assistance as travellers for a firm who have not one penny invested in the stock of the road they travel over, and whose only claim to recognition lies in the fact that some day or another they may have occasion to ship goods in small or large quantities over the road. Mr. Parkinson added that it behoved every member of the Association to help to increase that membership until it reached a figure which should satisfy even the most exacting of railroad managers to grant the privileges asked. Among those present at this exceedingly successful dinner were: Messrs. E. R. Machum, President of the Canadian Association; H. C. Cox, chairman of the Dominion Association; J. A. Bucknell, Homer Vipond, C. J. Alloway, J. Herbert Simpson, W. S. Lingley, H. H. Kay, T. J. Parkes, F. Germain, T. F. Conrod, T. B. Parkinson, J. O. McCarthy, W. S. Dresser, M. Monaghan, R. H. Haycock and J. F. Weston.

DULUTH-SUPERIOR Traction Company's comparative weekly statement of gross passenger earnings for month of March, 1910:—

	1910.	1909	Inc.
First week.....	\$ 18,361	\$ 16,259	\$ 2,102
Second week.....	18,415	15,900	2,514
Month to date.....	\$ 36,777	\$ 32,160	\$ 4,616
Year to date.....	\$190,905	\$167,516	\$23,379

COL. JAS. MASON, general manager of the Home Bank of Canada, has been made a Knight of Grace in the order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem at a meeting of the grand chapter in London, on February 22. Col. Mason's decoration is in recognition of his tireless interest in the Red Cross ambulance corps, both in Canada and in South Africa.