

Mr. P. H. Sims.

News of the retirement of Mr. P. H. Sims, one of the best-known fire underwriters in Canada, from the position of secretary of the British America Assurance Company, of Toronto, has been received with mingled feelings by the fire insurance fraternity throughout the Dominion. While insurance men are glad to know that, after many years of strenuous professional work, Mr. Sims will now be able to enjoy that comparative rest to which his prolonged activities so justly entitle him, yet there is necessarily keen regret that the services of so sound and experienced an underwriter will not now be available in the same way as hitherto. Happily, Mr. Sims will be retained on the official staff of the British America, so that his wide experience and matured judgment will continue to be at the disposal of his company, while doubtless, his advice and counsel will also be available to those fire insurance organisations of which for so many years he has been a prominent and valued member.

Mr. Sims, whose portrait we have the pleasure to present to our readers this week, has been connected with the practise of fire underwriting for forty-three years. A native of Galt, Ontario, Mr. Sims entered fire insurance in 1869, when he took the position of correspondence clerk with the Waterloo Mutual Fire Insurance Company. In 1875, he moved over to the Mercantile Fire Insurance Company, of Waterloo, and from that time forward for seventeen years acted as its secretary. Nor during this period of his life was his active professional work sufficient for his energy. He took a keen interest in public affairs, being a member of the Town Council from 1878 to 1890, and for fifteen years, was chairman of the Board of Education.

It was in 1892 that Mr. Sims moved to Toronto to become connected with the British America Assurance Company. He was first appointed chief agent, having charge of the company's Canadian business, and in 1893, secretary, which position he has continued to fill until his recent resignation. His work as secretary of the British America is, as we have said, well known to fire underwriters, who appreciate no less his strenuous activity in connection with fire underwriters' organisations. In the nineties, Mr. Sims did excellent service in the cause of schedule rating in Toronto. For the years 1894 and 1895 he was president of the Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters, and in 1903, president of the Insurance Institute of Toronto. And the excellent service which he has done for very many years in the wider field covered by the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association was recognized in 1898 and 1899 when he was elected president. Mr. Sims was also a charter member of the Dominion Life Assurance Company, organised

in 1889 with its head office at Waterloo, Ont., and was elected the first vice-president, which position he has held continuously to the present time.

MR. SIMS HONORED BY AGENTS.

The occasion of Mr. Sims' retirement to a period of comparative leisure, which all those who know him, trust may be prolonged, has given the opportunity for notable manifestations of the esteem in which he is held by the staff of the British America, both in the office and in the field. An address presented by the staff of the company may be cited in this connection. "No words or acts of ours," says this address, "can convey to you adequately the esteem in which you are held by the members of the staff, due to the uniform courtesy, unfailing kindness and sympathy which have at all times characterized your dealings with us." Similarly the agents, of whose correspondence with the Head Office Mr. Sims has had special charge, have indicated the cordial character of their feelings towards him. At a recent gathering of the happiest character the agents showed their good-will by presentation of an address and a handsome silver tea service. The address was in the following terms:—

Toronto, 9th January, 1912.

To P. H. SIMS, Esq.,
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir:—On the occasion of your retirement from the Secretaryship of the British America Assurance Company, we, the undermentioned Agents of the Company, wish to express to you our warm appreciation of the kindly relations which have always existed between you and ourselves. We beg to thank you for your unvarying and kind consideration of our efforts, and are gratified to know that you are to be retained on the Official Staff of the Company, hoping that in consequence, we may, to some extent, remain in touch with you. We ask you to accept, as a slight token of our good-will, this silver tea service, and trust that you may find it useful.

Signed by sixty-seven agents, contributors to the testimonial.

The following agents were present at the presentation: Messrs. C. R. G. Johnson, Montreal, Hay, of Messrs. Mahoney & Hay, Quebec, Alfred J. Bell, Halifax, N.S., Wm. Martin, North Bay, Ont., Capt. Geo. C. Coles, Collingwood, Ont., E. Godwin, Jr., Kingston, Ont., D. A. Cummings, Brockville, Ont., Geo. Gunn, London, Ont., G. S. Pearcy, Toronto, Andrew E. Wright, Toronto, P. L. Bailey, Toronto, A. Sanderson, Caledon East, Ont., J. D. Evans, Islington, Ont., and K. V. Bunnell, Brantford, Ont. The address was read by Mr. C. R. G. Johnson, of Montreal, who also made some brief remarks appropriate to the occasion. Mr. Sims replied in feeling terms. He thanked the agents most cordially for their kind words and most beautiful testimonial which, he said, would be cherished in fond memory of the happy relations which have for years existed between the head office of the company and the agents during the term of Mr. Sims' secretaryship.

The presentation over, the president, vice-president and general manager of the British America invited