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The Accident Underwriters' Convention.

The Convention recently held of Accident Underwriters at Crawford House, N. H., was attended by representatives of nearly every Casualty Company in the United States. The absence of such jealousies as paralyze the action of insurance associations was a marked feature, and the unity of purpose displayed accounts for the success of the Convention, as it does also for the excellent work done in the interest of casualty insurance. As to the beneficial effects of the Association, there was marked uniformity of conviction expressed. The organization by its unity exercises great power in protecting the business from mischievous, costly and wholly needless competition, and experience has proved that casualty business develops more satisfactorily under a system of harmonious ratings than under conditions of opposite nature. The Canadian Association of Accident Underwriters would enlarge its usefulness by taking that of the United States as an example of unity, and earnestly working on the same practical lines.

Recent Bank Dividends.

The banks whose annual statements are issued in summer showed exceptionally large earnings, from which they added considerable amounts to Reserve Fund, as the following list shows:—

Bank.	Per cent. net profits. Per cent.	Added to Reserve Fund. \$	Present Reserve Fund. \$	Ratio lost to Capital. Per cent.
Montreal.....	13 34	1,000,000	8,000,000	66 66
Imperial.....	17 94	275,000	2,125,000	85 00
Toronto.....	14 00	153,570	2,597,290	100 00
Dominion.....	14 12	2,500,000	100 00
Hochelega.....	10 14	200,000	950,000	48 14
Standard.....	17 67	100,000	850,000	85 00
Quebec.....	10 00	200,000	900,000	36 00
Ontario.....	13 65	75,000	425,000	30 40
Traders.....	13 27	100,000	350,000	25 92
Nationale.....	10 83	75,000	350,000	23 90

The Reserve Fund was not in every case an appropriation from the net earnings of the past year, but partly taken from the surplus earnings stored away at credit of Profit and Loss account. In case of the Bank of Toronto, the profits made by a sale of securities was added to Reserve Fund.

Superstition Dying Out.

There are several religious bodies whose members decline to insure their lives or their property from a superstitious idea that such precaution is setting Providence at naught. One of these misguided persons died in distressing poverty recently who might have been in good circumstances had he exercised his great natural abilities. He, however, claimed to be, as he said, "In the arms of Providence as a child in that of its mother," which folly ended in his literally begging his bread and dying like a dog in a barn. The sect he belonged to which held such nonsensical notions is almost extinct. The Baltimore "Underwriter" gives news of another sect changing its ideas. "The Society of Dunkards forbade its members to insure their lives, because it was held that the lives of men are not in their own hands, that it was wicked to speculate upon the duration of life; that in life insurance somebody was defrauded; that where there was profit to those who received many thousands of dollars as a return on only hundreds, others were losers to the amount of the difference, that it was gambling. Other conclusions have been arrived at and the Dunkards no longer place restraint on their members insuring their lives. As a general thing the members are thrifty and well to do, easily able to pay the premium on policies, and on large policies." Some of these people however, in Canada still ignore insurance of any kind.