

GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

We understand that Mr. Relton, the general manager of above Company, is now considering applications for the position of manager of the Canadian branch.

After the appointment has been made, the question of an assistant manager will be taken up with the new manager.

The Guardian is one of the most popular Fire Offices, not only in Canada, but wherever it transacts business throughout the whole world. It is noted for the liberality and promptness of its dealings with policyholders, and is also highly popular amongst its agents.

The Company was established in London in 1821. It has the largest paid-up capital of any fire office, namely, £1,000,000 sterling. Its total annual income exceeds \$4,000,000, while its total assets exceed \$25,000,000.

THE GROWTH OF ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

BY A. L. EASTMURE,

Vice-President and Managing Director of the Ontario Accident Insurance Company.

The mid-winter season is a time during which the Accident Underwriter may rejoice in the reflection that his persistent advocacy of the principles of forethought and thrift (qualities which can be so admirably exemplified by the purchase of a policy in his particular company), has, since Santa Claus last came, brought aid, comfort and compensation to many hundreds of persons whose "occupation or exposure" may be said to have embraced almost every avocation, profession and calling known to civilization, the "Preferred" classes, if anything, predominating. This latter fact must be especially interesting to those who remember the influential body of public opinion, on the subject of insurance against accident, gathered in the United Kingdom by Mr. Martin L. Martin, of the "Scottish Accident," twenty three years ago, when the view seemed to prevail that it was chiefly of value to persons engaged in hazardous occupations.

In the year 1883, when the population of this Dominion did not reach four and a half millions, one company only, operating under a charter from the Dominion Government, transacted accident insurance, solely in Canada. At that period four other companies, two Canadian, one British and one American, conducted accident departments as auxiliary branches, and the combined income of all from premiums received in Canada, reached the very modest total of \$128,944.

It may not be generally known, but about this time, the first policy, and the first tariff of rates for Employers' Liability Insurance, used on the American Continent, were drafted and issued in Canada; but industrial development, while steady, was slow,

and the next decade, although aided by the new branch, did not produce a large increase in the volume of transactions, the combined premiums of all companies for 1893 being \$313,286.

Nearing the close of another decade, the third in this retrospect, the results, from present estimates, indicate a growth unparalleled in the previous history of the business. It may be safe to predict that the returns of accident companies to the Dominion Government for 1903 will reach a premium income well in the neighbourhood of one million dollars; and the beneficiaries under the policies will probably include from ten to fifteen thousand persons, the business affording, at the same time, honourable and lucrative employment to a great number of active workers in both office and field.

This year twelve companies licensed by the Dominion Government operate accident insurance in Canada. Of these, six are Canadian, four British and two American, and the transactions are about equally divided between the home offices and their British and American confreres. Hitherto, the "Native Born" have been content to cultivate their own "garden patch," and none have ventured far beyond the limits of the Confederate Provinces; but at the present rate of progress the time cannot be far distant when, following British and Continental practice, Canadian companies still extend their operations to other fields, and support there, within their sphere and degree, the doctrine of the "common brotherhood" for which insurance in its various forms and branches is exerting so potential an influence throughout the world.

"THE DEFECTS OF FIRE INSURANCE AND ITS REMEDY."

The times in which we live are considered the most wonderful in history. Among the many peculiar features which distinguish these days are easily recognized the multiplicity of books and quack medicines. We have remedies for every ill, genuine or imaginary, which can affect the human frame. Diseases and their gruesome symptoms occupy columns of the daily papers, always with a comforting and certain remedy attached thereto by some kind-hearted healer, with the purely philanthropic desire to spend his life in curing mankind with his nostrum, at from one to five dollars a bottle.

Millions are annually spent by the credulous, who believe that any constitutional defect or disease can be remedied by some pill or potion skillfully advertised. But it is not often that the making of a book and the benefit of the race have been so artfully combined as in the wonderful volume entitled "The Defects of Fire Insurance and its Remedy." Milton was the richer by some five pounds, for the grandest English epic ever written—"Paradise Lost," so this modest writer offers what he humbly