tion, is public regulation of companies operating under properly guarded franchises. In France and Germany, as a writer in the New York Evening Post points out, he finds precedents for this policy, as well as in the British Gas Acts. It is regretted by many that, after the establishment of the Local Government Board in 1871, Parliament did not develop a model franchise policy which would have secured good service at reasonable prices and at the same time offered all necessary inducements to private capital. "Certain it is that in this direction, and not in mere criticism of the methods and results of municipal trading, the opponents of municipal Socialism must seek effective weapons."

NEW OFFICERS OF L. U. A. C.

There is no doubt that during the coming year the Life Underwriters' Association of Canada will be well and energetically officered. The retiring president in his valedictory words referred especially to the worth of Mr. E. R. Machum, the president-elect. Following the report of the nominating committee the convention elected the following officers:

Mr. T. G. McConkey, honorary president; Mr. E. R. Machum, president; Messrs. A. H. Vipond, T. F. Conrod, and T. B. Parkinson, vice-presidents; Mr. J. A. Tory, secretary; Mr. F. T. Stanford, treasurer, and Mr. H. C. Cox, chairman of the executive committee.

Executive Committee: Toronto, J. O. McCarthy; Montreal, G. H. Simpson; Prince Edward Island, J. E. Matthews; Nova Scotia, J. T. Wilson; Brockville, L. Patton; London, C. E. German; Saskatchewan, J. G. Milloy; Central Ontario, W. E. Widdess; Eastern Townships, W. S. Dresser; Manitoba, E. S. Miller; Alberta, P. Q. McQueen; Quebec, M. Monaghan; Vancouver, J. D. Dreese; Ottawa, R. H. Haycock; Bay of Quinte, G. W. Jarrell; New Brunswick, G. C. Jordan; Kingston, J. C. Hutton; Hamilton, C. B. Linton; Guelph, G. B. Hamilton; Huron, A. Waddell, sr.; Northern Ontario, J. Boyle; Brant, H. & M., J G. Liddell.

Member-elect to Executive Committee of the N.A.L.U.: T. G. McConkey.

Delegates to N. A. L. U.: J. R. Reid, J. O. McCarthy, J. F. Weston, F. H. Heath, T. B. Parkinson, J. G. Liddell, E. E. Boreham, J. A. Tory, Burrows, Colonel E. W. Wilson, H. R. Boyd, G. P. Hamilton, J. B. Morrisette, H. S. Crosby, and G. H. Simpson.

A vote of thanks to the retiring officers and the Executive Committee was proposed by Mr. Parkes, seconded by Mr. Hamilton and unanimously carried.

Toronto was fixed upon as the meeting-place for next year's convention.

UP TO THE CLOSE OF AUGUST, it is estimated that over 80,000 transatlantic immigrants have come to Canada this year.

FIRE INSURANCE IN JAMAICA.

Recently the London correspondent of THE CHRONICLE referred to the report that eight English offices have withdrawn from fire insurance business in Jamaica. The Times of London characterizes the step taken as a severe comment on the settlement made by the companies of 85 per cent. of the losses which occurred at the time of the earthquake in 1907. There is Jamaica information to the further effect that others are expected to withdraw, that those remaining have increased their premium rates by 100 per cent., also that Canadian companies are likely to go after the business.

According to the Post Magazine, it is understood that the offices concerned determined individually upon their drastic action, but only after long deliberation, for so grave a step may unfortunately exercise a deleterious effect upon West Indian credit and trade. Since the Jamaican earthquake several of the companies have been prepared to undertake earthquake risks at special rates, but apparently those that are withdrawing from the island are so dissatisfied with the treatment they have received that they prefer to let even such business slip past them. It is possible that the people of Jamaica may find themselves a little awkwardly placed; no doubt if deserted by some of the leading tariff offices they will receive support from non-tariff companies, from foreign offices, and possibly, directly and indirectly, to an increased extent from Lloyd's. But even then doubled rates are foreshadowed, and such assistance is likely to be offered only as long as it is found to be remunerative.

LIFE COMPANIES AND LIFE UNDERWRITERS.

Though unable to be present at the Canadian Life Underwriters' Convention, the veteran president of the Life Officers' Association did not fail to make clear his interest in so notable an agency event. Indeed, the reading of a characteristic communication from Mr. J. K. Macdonald provided one of the most significant features of the whole gathering. His letter did not contain perfunctory greeting or formal well-wishing. Instead, it gave practical expression to the conviction that the interests of companies and agents are essentially one—and that both are bound up with the rendering of honest and efficient service to the policyholder.

In all frankness Mr. Macdonald does not hesitate to affirm that there are some things entering into the practical working of life insurance which it would be well to eliminate, and, that without doubt, it is in the power of the field men largely to help in their removal. He does not hesitate to affirm that of all financial institutions none rests on a higher moral plane than life insurance. If that is so, does it not follow that the various