

THE NEW INSURANCE BILL

Mr. Fielding Drops Sections of Fraternal Insurance.

A despatch from Ottawa says: In the Commons on Thursday afternoon Hon. Mr. Fielding, on motion for the second reading of the insurance bill, reiterated his suggestion, made when the measure was introduced, that it be formally read a second time, then referred to the Banking and Commerce Committee on the understanding that it would be a matter for full discussion in the House when it came back from the committee. Proceeding, he said that among other important matters the bill proposed to deal with the question of assessment or fraternal insurance. In regard to that urgent representations had been made to the Government, including those of a deputation representing the great fraternal order of the Independent Order of Foresters. While only that body was represented on the occasion referred to, he had no doubt they expressed views that would generally be agreed to by fraternal or-

ders. The leaders of that very influential order had quite frankly acknowledged that their system was undergoing consideration. While they had ample reserves for present obligations and for the early future, they felt that the time had arrived when some steps should be taken to put it on a still more solid and permanent basis. For that purpose the Supreme Court had been summoned to meet in June next, one year earlier than usual, to consider some steps. Other bodies will likewise meet during the year, and it seemed but right that their officials should have an opportunity to consult with the same end in view. Hon. Mr. Fielding therefore proposed to strike from the measure all the clauses dealing with the assessment and fraternal insurance, which if necessary, might become the subject of a second bill at another session. Mr. Borden concurred, and the bill was read a second time.

LEADING MARKETS

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Jan. 28.—Manitoba Wheat—No. 1 northern, \$1.21; No. 2 northern, \$1.16; feed wheat, 69c; No. 2 feed, 64c, all rail.
Ontario Wheat—No. 2 white, 99c; No. 2 red, 98c to 98½c; No. 2 mixed, 98c.
Barley—No. 2, 76c to 78c outside; No. 3 extra, 75c to 76c.
Flour—Winter wheat patents, for export, selling at \$3.75; Manitoba patents, special brand, \$5.80 to \$6; seconds, \$5.20 to \$5.40; strong bakers', \$5.10 to \$5.30.
Peas—84c to 85c outside.
Rye—No. 2, 81c.
Corn—No. 2 yellow American, 64c to 64½c, Toronto freights. Quotations on Canadian corn about nominal at 57c.
Oats—No. 2 white, 49½c to 50c outside, 53c track, Toronto; No. 2 mixed, 47c to 48c outside.
Buckwheat—No. 2, 66c outside.
Bran—\$22 outside; shorts, \$24. Bran sold at \$24 Toronto, to arrive.
Call board quotations:—
Bran—Sold at \$24 track, Toronto, to arrive, bags included. Sold at \$24 March shipment. Same price bid for more.
Winter Wheat—Ontario, No. 2 mixed, 98c asked, outside.
Manitoba Wheat—No. 2 northern, \$1.15 asked, track, Midland; No. 3 northern, \$1.15 asked, en route to North Bay, \$1.15 bid spot North Bay.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Poultry—There is an easier tone to prices, 15c per pound being the top price obtainable.
Young turkeys, extra choice, 13c to 15c do choice, 11c to 13c
Young geese, 9c to 11c
Young ducks, 9c to 11c
Chickens, choice, 9c to 11c
Old fowl, 6c to 8c
Inferior chicks and fowls, 5c to 7c
Butter—Market holds steady. Receipts are moderate and the demand steady.
Creamery prints, 28c to 30c do solids, 27c to 28c
Dairy prints, 24c to 26c do solids, 22c to 23c
Inferior, 20c to 21c
Cheese—13½c for large and 13½c for twins, in job lots here.
Eggs—Storage, 21c to 22c per dozen in case lots; selects, 25c to 26c.
Honey—Strained steady at 11c to 12c per pound for 60-pound pails, and 12c to 13c for 5 to 10-pound pails. Combs at \$1.75 to \$2.50 per dozen.
Beans—\$1.70 to \$1.75 for primes and \$1.80 to \$1.85 for hand-picked.
Potatoes—70c to 75c per bag in car lots on tracks here.
Baled Straw—\$9.50 to \$10.50 per ton on track here.
Baled Hay—Timothy is quoted at \$16.50 to \$17.50 in car lots on track here.

DECEMBER WAS BIG MONTH

Gain of Nearly Seven Million Dollars in Foreign Trade.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The total trade of the Dominion for the calendar year 1907 was \$658,599,974, as compared with \$594,319,289 for 1906, an increase of \$64,280,685. Total imports last year were \$385,275,360, an increase of \$60,433,675; total exports were \$273,324,614, an increase of \$3,847,010. Total exports of domestic produce last year were \$228,015,557, a decrease of \$730,765. Total exports of foreign produce amounted to \$35,309,057, an increase of \$4,577,775. The statement of imports and exports for the last month shows a very considerable betterment over the cor-

responding month of 1906. The falling off in both imports and exports noted in the figures for the preceding month is replaced by large increases in the figures for the last month. Total imports for the month were \$24,097,968, an increase of \$4,582,822 over December, 1906; total exports of domestic products were \$21,479,667, an increase of \$248,651, and exports of foreign products totalled \$3,040,544, an increase of \$1,879,169, making a total gain of \$2,127,830 in exports. Taking both imports and exports, exclusive of coin and bullion, the gain for the month was \$6,710,642.

bulls were selling at \$4.10 to \$4.40 per cwt.

The following were the quotations: Choice load, \$4.25 to \$4.60; select steers, \$4.75 to \$4.85; medium to good steers, \$3.75 to \$4.75; choice cows, \$3.40 to \$3.75; medium to fair cows, \$3 to \$3.25; rough cows, \$1.50 to \$2.60; canners, 75c to \$1.40 per cwt.

Light to medium stockers were worth \$2.75 to \$3.25; and feeders, medium, \$3.40 to \$3.75 per cwt.

Choice milk cows were lower at \$40 to \$45 each.

Choice calves were worth 5½ to 6½ cents per pound. Heavier ones were worth \$3 to \$3.40 per cwt.

Export ewes \$4.25 to \$4.50; bucks and culs, \$3 to \$3.75; grain-fed lambs, \$5.75 to \$6.25; ordinary lambs, \$4.50 to \$5.50 per cwt.

Hogs were weak at \$5.50 for selects, and \$5.25 per cwt. for lights and fats.

DRUGS IN FOODSTUFFS.

Said to Shorten Lives of People in America.

A despatch from Washington says: Dr. H. W. Wiley, chief of the bureau of chemistry of the Department of Agriculture, reported on Friday to the House Committee on Agriculture the results of exhaustive experiments to determine the poisonous effects on the human system of such drugs as borax, benzoic acid, benzoate of soda, sulphate of copper, sulphur dioxide, formaldehyde and salicylic acid when contained in foodstuffs. Dr. Wiley said that the expulsion of those and kindred drugs from the body is performed almost entirely by the kidneys, and that he is satisfied the term of American life would be lengthened if the use of such drugs in foods were wholly discontinued. He said he was convinced that kidney disease, so prevalent in America, is partly the result of the constant introduction into the system of such preservative substances as benzoate of soda carried in foods.

Dr. Wiley has a plan to teach the farmers of the country to make denatured alcohol, which, he says, can be cheaply manufactured from damaged fruit and vegetables and other farm waste.

FIREMEN PERISH IN BLAZE.

Three Lose Their Lives at a Fire in Baltimore.

A despatch from Baltimore, Md., says: Fire early on Friday took heavy tolls of the members of the fire department of this city, three being dead and sixteen others more or less seriously injured, including George Hoston, chief of the fire department. The financial damage is estimated at \$400,000. The blaze, which is the worst that has occurred in this city since the calamity of 1904, started on the third floor of the building on the southeast corner of Holiday and Saratoga streets. In an incredibly short time after the blaze broke out on the Saratoga street side of the Register Building, and without warning, a large section of the north wall of the building fell. It was this that scattered death and injuries among the firemen. While responding to the alarm, a hose carriage and fire engine collided, and five of the men on the engine were injured, one of them seriously.

LIEUT. BROWNE'S SUICIDE.

Well-Known Young Montreal Man Shoots Himself.

A despatch from Montreal says: A sensation was caused on Thursday when the news spread that Lieutenant H. Gordon Browne had committed suicide. He was an officer in the Victoria Rifles and confidential secretary to Lieut.-Col. Whitehead. Lieut. Browne had been chatting and smoking with two friends. He passed a casual remark and rose from the easy chair in which he was sitting and walked upstairs. Nobody suspected that anything was wrong until a muffled report was heard coming from the direction of the top story. His friends immediately made a dash for the stairway and up to Browne's room. There they found Lieut. Browne lying on his face, his arms outstretched, shot in the head, and the revolver lying close to his right hand. He had evidently died instantly. Lieut. Browne had been in poor health for some time.

CITY HALL BURNED.

Fire in Portland, Maine, Does \$1,000,000 Damage.

A despatch from Portland, Me., says: A fire which caused a property damage of \$1,000,000 early on Friday destroyed the City Hall and police buildings and endangered the lives of more than 700 persons. The fire was the worst in the State since the great conflagration in Portland in 1866. Death was absent from the fire, a fact considered very remarkable, as there were more than 700 members of the Western Maine Knights of Pythias' Jubilee gathered in the auditorium of the City Hall when the flames were discovered. Only a few persons were hurt. The financial loss is estimated at \$1,000,000, but this sum will not cover the loss of the papers and documents in the registry of deeds, where everything was destroyed. Other city departments were swept clear of everything by the flames, with the exception of the city clerk's and the city treasurer's offices.

The refusal of Chancellor Von Buelow to discuss the Prussian suffrage question in the Reichstag led to violent speeches on the part of Socialist Deputies.

BUSINESS WILL SOON BOOM

The Views of Sir William Van Horne Are Optimistic.

A despatch from New York says: Sir William C. VanHorne, chairman of the Canadian Pacific, who arrived here from Cuba on Tuesday, is optimistic on the business outlook. He expressed the belief that the wheels of business would soon revolve at their normal speed. "This has been a very severe depression," he said, "and in my judgment the rebound will be speedy. One can see why steel and copper industries have been paralyzed, so that not 50

per cent. of the normal production of manufacture is the case. Large corporations could not get money because they could not sell their securities except at ruinous prices—now money is becoming easy. The securities market, especially in bonds, is better, and soon corporations will be able to sell their securities again. When securities are being sold one will find an immediate response in industrial circles. Business will immediately improve."

KITCHEN WAS WRECKED.

Three Persons Injured by Explosion of Natural Gas.

A despatch from Blenheim says: Three persons were injured and a house badly wrecked by an explosion of natural gas at the residence of Mrs. Thos. Coatsworth, two miles east of here, at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning. The injured were: Mrs. Coatsworth, her son, Mr. Herb Lot, and a young man named David Hamilton, all of whom were badly burned. Mr. Lot some time previous to the explosion had disconnected the pipes in order to remove water from them, and in doing so quite a quantity of gas was allowed to escape. When the fire was lighted in the kitchen range it was followed by a terrific explosion, which blew out two of the outside walls of the kitchen and caved in the roof. All three of the injured persons were in the kitchen at the time of the explosion.

A LIVING PENSION.

Canadian Pacific Raises Minimum Retiring Allowance.

A despatch from Montreal says: The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has raised the minimum retiring allowance to employees entitled by length of service to a pension so that no one shall have less than twenty dollars per month on leaving the company's service to participate in the pension fund. President Sir Thomas Shaughnessy has just issued a circular to the employees intimating that the regulations governing pensions have been revised, as it had been found that in some cases the amount of pension was not sufficient to support the recipient in his declining years.

TWO MEN BURNED TO DEATH.

J. Stevenson, Shoemaker, and James McKinnon, Tailor, of Fort Frances.

A despatch from Fort Frances says: Fire was discovered on Sunday morning at 2 o'clock in a small building used as a shoemaker's shop on Church street, opposite the postoffice. Inside half an hour the fire was subdued, and the firemen were horrified to find on the floor the remains of two men. They were J. Stevenson, owner of the shop, and a tailor by the name of James McKinnon, who was employed by W. A. Baker. McKinnon had evidently tried to reach the rear door, but fell, overcome by the smoke, with his head within a foot of a window. Both legs were burned off, and he was otherwise badly burned. Stevenson had tried to get out by the front part.

Gunn-Noot, who shot two men in July, in Northern British Columbia, has been tracked unsuccessfully. The pursuit has cost over \$30,000.

The C. P. R. steamer Montrose arrived at St. John on Sunday with three hundred immigrants who were on board the Mount Royal when she was compelled to return to Queenstown.

REVENUES STILL INCREASE.

Temiskaming Railway a Money-maker for Province of Ontario.

A despatch from Toronto says: For sensation was caused on Thursday and Northern Ontario Railway amounted to \$65,496 and the disbursements to \$54,326. The province thus obtained from its own railway a net revenue of \$11,170, as against \$10,519 in the same month of 1906. For the eleven months ending November 30 the receipts of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway were \$778,478, and the expenditures were \$586,098, leaving a balance of \$192,380. In addition to this, the commission in charge of the road collected \$128,005 in royalties on ore produced on properties leased to different concerns. The total net revenue of the road was, therefore, \$220,385 for eleven months.

MUST BE TEETOTALERS.

No More Drinking by Employees of Baltimore & Ohio Railroad.

A despatch from Baltimore, Md., says: It is officially announced that hereafter employees of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad having anything to do with the direction or running of trains will not be permitted to use intoxicants at any time, either when on or off duty, and no person using such beverage will be employed. This action has been taken by the officials of the railroad in an effort to reduce the number of accidents.

SEED GRAIN FOR SETTLERS.

Arrangements for Advancing Loans to Those Who are in Need.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The arrangements for advancing money by way of loan to settlers in the Northwest whose crops failed last season, for the purpose of enabling them to purchase seed grain, will be completed this week. It is said that the sum required may run as high as three million dollars. Seed oats will likely be purchased in Britain, and probably in Norway and Sweden, so as to introduce diversified cereal crops in the Western provinces.

THE UNEMPLOYED FLED.

Were Chased by the Police Through Chicago Streets.

A despatch from Chicago says: An attempt of the Socialists to bring about a "march of the unemployed" through the downtown streets on Thursday to the City Hall resulted in two sharp fights with the police, in which the would-be marchers were routed after a number of men had been clubbed. Dr. Benjamin Reitman, the originator of the plan to march through the streets, and two of his followers were arrested.

Dr. Sprague, a well-known physician of Belleville, dropped dead on Saturday.

THE WORLD'S SHIPBUILDING

Statistics for 1907 Show That Britain Builds Half.

A despatch from London says: The statistics of the world's shipbuilding in 1907, just issued by Lloyds register, shows a total output of mercantile tonnage by the United Kingdom of 1,742,265, being a decrease of 220,200 tons, as compared with 1906, which was the highest on record. The foreign output in 1907 increased by nearly 80,000 tons.

Great Britain, however, still builds more than one-half the mercantile shipping of the globe, which last year showed a net increase of 1,984,800 tons, as compared with an increase of 2,158,600 in 1906. The world's fleet of sailing ships was reduced during the year by 180,000 tons and the steam tonnage was increased by 2,164,800. The United

States built, in 1907, 450,000 tons, which was a slight increase.

Germany shows rather a serious decline. Last year she built 275,000 tons, as compared with 318,000 in 1906, while at the same time she purchased less from Great Britain.

Great Britain is still a large purchaser of vessels built abroad. Another matter of great discontent in this country is the largest percentage of foreigners employed as seamen on the British mercantile marine, numbering a total of 40,000, with an annual wage list of \$10,000,000. While the question of the unemployed is pressing heavily ashore, this is considered unfortunate, and the British Naval League is taking active steps to agitate the utilization of the unemployed to take the place of aliens on the ships.