

BANQUET HELD BY THE FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL

A very successful dinner was held on the 29th January, at the Montreal Club by the members of the Fire Insurance Association of Montreal, and of the Quebec Pond of the Ancient and Honourable Order of The Blue Goose.

Mr. George E. Moberly (Manager Northern), presided on the occasion in his dual capacity as President of the Fire Association, and as Most Loyal Gander of the Quebec Pond of the Blue Goose. Mr. Moberly was ably assisted in conducting the proceedings of the evening by Colonel Morris, the well known fire adjuster and past president of F. I. A. of M. The number present on the occasion was well over one hundred. An excellent dinner was followed by an unusually high class entertainment programme under the direction of Q. M. Sgt. Cross of the Princess Patricias and now connected with the C. F. U. A.

As the main object of the occasion, was a pleasant and social evening, the only speech arranged for was that of the President Mr. Moberly. During the evening, however, some prominent members of the fire insurance profession, who appreciate very highly the educational work being carried on by the Fire Insurance Association, rose to express their interest in it, and their willingness to assist in the work. Among those who addressed the meeting in this connection were Mr. J. H. Labelle, assistant manager Royal Ins. Co., Mr. Randall Davidson, manager North British & Mercantile, and Mr. Lewis Laing, assistant manager Liverpool & London & Globe. The encouraging addresses delivered by these gentlemen were very much appreciated, and warrants the belief that the Goal aimed at, having an Insurance Institute established in Montreal, will be attained in the near future.

In referring to the success of the dinner. Special mention should be made of the following gentleman whose efforts therewith contributed so largely to the enjoyment of those present: Messrs F. T. Jennings, W. B. Robertson, J. D. Simpson and F. E. Dufty, chairman of the Class Committee.

It may be considered that the Fire Insurance Association is now fairly launched, and from the interest that has been taken therein at the Wednesday Evening Meetings this winter, and also from the enthusiasm displayed during the evening, there is every reason to hope that before long the object aimed at, namely; the formation of an Insurance Institute in affiliation with the chartered Insurance Institute of Great Britain will be consummated. Several general managers from Head Offices who visited Montreal during the past season expressed some surprise, that the Insurance Fraternity of Montreal do not enjoy the benefits socially and

educationally to be derived from an Insurance Institute.

Among others, the following insurance officials were present: Messrs. Randall Davidson, manager North British & Mercantile, J. H. Labelle, assistant manager, Royal, Lewis Laing, assistant manager, Liverpool & London & Globe, W. S. Jopling, manager Commercial Union, J. D. Simpson, deputy manager, Liverpool & London & Globe, Kennedy and Colley, joint managers, London Assurance, C. E. Corbold, manager, London & Scottish (Fire Dept.), M. Ferrand, manager, Union of Paris, T. Meunier, manager, British Colonial, J. D. Cherry, manager, Queensland, H. M. Lambert, manager, Guardian, Colin E. Sword, manager, Law Union & Rock, H. A. Fronnings, manager, Hartford, A. H. Vallance, asst. manager, Phenix of Hartford W. S. Davis, Superintendent North British & Mercantile, and Mr. Roden, manager, Canada Accident (Casualty), among the brokers present was Mr. F. L. Saunderson, president of the Association, The Chronicle was represented by Mr. F. Wilson-Smith.

Mr. Moberly's speech which we publish in extenso is well worthy of careful personal and was listened to with great interest:—

As but little is generally known about the *Blue Goose Society* or the *Fire Insurance Association of Montreal*, it was felt that advantage should be taken of this occasion to say a few words of explanation as to their organizations and aims.

I had a nice little scheme for dividing this "Labour of Love" between Members of the Committees; they delicately but determinedly turned that scheme down on the ground that one speech was enough, and that in return for the honour conferred upon me by the two Organizations, it was up to me to make the said speech on their behalf. I could but accept the ruling of the Committee as there was no opportunity for an appeal to the whole Association.

First of all I wish to express the keen appreciation I feel of the compliment implied in appointing me as Chief Officer of the two Organizations. When asked to allow my name to go up for nomination, I declined, as candidly speaking, I am too busy this winter to give proper attention to such a responsibility. The explanations, however, made by the Deputation which called on me were so flattering, and their desire that I accede to their request so earnest, that I left myself in their hands on the understanding that I should not be expected to do any work. With the exception of the task I am now engaged upon, this understanding has been carried out; consequently such success as has been achieved, and it is considerable, is due to the Officers and Workers of the two Organizations, and not to the "figure head."