

SOLVING THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION PROBLEM.

The attention of the British Columbia Government, which is taking up the idea of a monopolistic Government workmen's compensation scheme, is directed to what has lately been happening in Queensland. There the Government started out to establish a State monopoly but on representations being made to the Legislative Council as to the prejudicial effect upon invested capital and upon investment sentiment such a step was likely to have, incorporated an amendment allowing the insurance companies transacting this kind of business to compete with the State fund.

There is no particular reason why a Government should run a workmen's compensation business, unless it be accepted that a Government should also run every kind of business from gold mining to groceries, but, where a scheme of Government insurance is insisted on, it is only reasonable that the insurance companies should also be allowed to transact business. The precedent set in the Ontario case, followed later in Nova Scotia and now proposed in British Columbia, of high-handed confiscation, is opening up disagreeable possibilities for all who have invested funds in business or industry in Canada. These are not ignored by those most intimately concerned and the British Columbian government would be well advised to give full consideration to this aspect of the matter before coming to a final decision.

THE "OLD EQUITABLE."

The ancient "old Equitable" of London, England, which employs no agents, pays no commission, and, broadly speaking, is a law unto itself among British life assurance offices, reports for 1914, the issue of 356 policies for sums amounting to £562,822, compared with £361,925 in the previous year. This relatively large increase under unfavorable circumstances, is probably accounted for by the fact that 1914 was a bonus year. The management outlays last year amounted to only 6.45 per cent. of the premium income but in the valuation (with 2½ per cent. interest) the loading reserved was 22 per cent.—more than 15 per cent. in excess of the actual rate of expenditure. The surplus, after allowing £337,987 for depreciation in securities and £30,499 to meet the extra liability of members on active service was £831,579, £300,000 being carried forward after the declaration of reversionary bonuses on exactly the same scale as at the preceding distribution. The bonuses given by the society are particularly large for those policies long in force.

INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA.

Canadian agents and policyholders of the Insurance Company of North America will be interested to learn that the Company has subscribed \$300,000 to the Anglo-French 5 per cent. loan recently issued in the United States. This action forms an interesting indication of the present sympathies of those at the head of this old-established Philadelphia company, and will be appreciated as such in the Dominion, throughout which the Canadian chief agents of the company (Messrs. Robert Hampson & Son of Montreal) are well known as keen supporters of all patriotic movements.

THE MOLSONS BANK.

The annual financial statement of the Molsons Bank has been issued in anticipation of the shareholders' meeting, fixed for Monday next. Profits for the financial year ended September 30th last are reported as \$556,193 compared with \$608,196 in the previous year. The balance brought forward of \$67,058 makes the total available \$623,252. The dividend absorbs \$440,000; \$75,000 is set aside for depreciation in securities, \$25,500 to meet war taxation and \$21,452 for the pension fund, the balance forward being \$61,300.

The balance sheet shows an increase in notice deposits of nearly \$2,500,000 from \$31,316,640 to \$33,781,358. Current loans decreased from \$32,201,380 to \$31,849,908.

THE LATE W. R. ARNOLD'S INSURANCE.

While the Canada Life recently made a settlement with Mr. Andrew Stewart, the liquidator of the defunct Dominion Trust Company, of the amount due on a policy held by the late W. R. Arnold, managing director of the defunct company, two other companies, the Mutual of Canada and the Sovereign, have put in their argument to the Supreme Court at Vancouver why they refuse to pay. In the first place it is claimed that the Dominion Trust Company, which is suing as executor, is not the executor, and has not the power to act as executor, because it is a company in winding up. In the second place, it is said that the policy would be void if the insured died by his own hands within two years of the date of the policy, and the document charges that he did die by his own hands by shooting himself on October 12, 1914. The third important ground is greatly elaborated upon, but in the main it is that Arnold fraudulently concealed from the insurance examining officer certain facts which were material to the risk.

PERPETUATING THE WORLD'S INSURANCE CONGRESS.

Arrangements have been completed for the perpetuation of the World's Insurance Congress recently held at San Francisco, by the creation of a National Insurance Council. Its fundamental function is to effectively organize for national purposes all insurance interests and correlated activities; the Council limits itself to the consideration of questions or problems common to insurance interests; the membership is to consist of national organizations, admitted by the unanimous vote of the central committee or two-thirds of the membership council, with admission at \$25; the governing body and central committee consists of three members each from the fire, life, casualty and surety, marine and fraternal branches of insurance; the Council is to meet once in three years, but special meetings may be called at any time; each association in the Council is to be represented by delegates chosen by its own rules, while alternates may be appointed; the central committee is to hold at least one central meeting annually.

It is now suggested that the British insurance companies could help to neutralise the fall in exchange by selling the securities they hold in the United States. The British life companies alone are estimated to hold about \$125,000,000 of American securities.