

SOLICITING USE AND OCCUPANCY.

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the extension of use and occupancy policies beyond the term of a year. Some assured are in doubt as to whether they could get their machinery or equipment or building materials within a year's time. They will take out extra insurance or rather extend the policy three months, six months or such a matter, paying the pro rata premium required to meet the extra obligation. The underwriter wants to know whether the rate is commensurate with the hazard. Underwriters who have a broad vision are willing to meet the demands of the assured provided the rate is adequate. The assured on meeting with a loss is solicitous as to his trade or customers. The first thought that pops into his mind is the effect on his trade. That is the paramount consideration. His use and occupancy insurance therefore comes in good play. It helps him to tide it over this period of uncertainty. He can go ahead and with extra expense and endeavour to restore his property so that he can start producing. He uses every possible means to get into the running. He sees the value of use and occupancy insurance at this time. It saves the day for him, relieves his mind of much anxiety and is of vast assistance. He is covered until his concern is back to its normal condition. The contract is based on net profits and when the condition of net profits is restored then the liability of the companies ceases. This form of insurance is destined to be permanent and, as soon as the provisions are more standardized, agents will be saved much time and difficulty.—Rough Notes.

FIREMEN SHOULD INSPECT.

If firemen spent less time playing checkers, scrubbing floors, polishing brass and knitting sweaters, as we see some of them are now doing to relieve the monotony, and each one put in a few hours a day inspecting property in his district, we might get along with less firemen and enjoy a reduced loss ratio to boot.

The idea that a fireman exists for the sole purpose of putting out fires belong to a past age. Let's scrap it.—Rough Notes.

INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY FOR FIRES.

The principle of individual liability for preventable fire is so obviously reasonable and just that, in attempting to explain its very limited adoption, we are almost constrained to take refuge in the cynical thought that its rationality and justice are among the practical handicaps. The true significance of preventable fire becomes apparent when we compare it with the work of the incendiary. The loss of foodstuffs and other resources destroyed through carelessness is no less because the fire was not deliberately set. It is just as serious a matter to be burned alive by the act of a careless neighbor as it is to die by the hand of an enemy. If we compare the amounts of damage caused by carelessness or neglect and by incendiarism, respectively, the comparison is, happily for the reputation of

human nature, all in favor of incendiarism. In short, neglect works havoc similar in kind and immeasurably greater in extent than that achieved by deliberate ill-will. The difference is reduced solely to one of motive.

EQUITABLE LIFE MAY ENTER ACCIDENT FIELD.

The announcement of E. E. Rittenhouse, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society that the company will shortly enter the accident and health underwriting field aroused some interest in casualty circles. The entry of the Equitable Life into the accident and health insurance field has more or less definitely been rumoured for some years past and the announcement now made is not altogether unexpected.

"How did I come by me black eye? You see, O'Grady has notice of a big assessment from a mutual fire insurance company, an 'twas me that recommended the company."

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