

LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION TO ACQUIRE THE BRITISH LAW FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The financial arrangements governing the transfer of the British Law Fire Insurance Company to the London Assurance Corporation are, we understand, completed. The British Law Fire Insurance Company has been transacting insurance of all kinds with the exception of life, throughout the United Kingdom, with a paid up capital of \$750,000. Its reserves amount to about \$1,575,000.

FIRE INSURANCE RATES.

Hon. Jesse S. Phillips, State Insurance Superintendent, New York, makes the following comments in the Annual Report of the New York Insurance Department:

"The entire rate question is, and always will be, a troublesome one. So long as the present great volume of fire losses continues, there is little hope of a material reduction in the aggregate premiums now collected by fire insurance companies. Statutory reduction of rates, or State rate-making, will not, in my judgment, solve this perplexing problem. If fire losses are to be paid, it is essential that sufficient premiums in the aggregate be collected for that purpose. There must also be collected an additional amount to provide against the ever-existing conflagration hazards which the most modern methods of construction and improvements in fire protection apparatus can never entirely eliminate. Complaints which are heard from time to time concerning fire insurance rates can be traced directly to the ever-present fire waste, which has almost come to be regarded as a national trait of the American people. Without a reduction of the fire loss, there can be no substantial change in the aggregate cost of fire insurance.

Numerous rate increases have been effected on classes of risks which it is alleged showed an unsatisfactory fire experience, and an additional general advance of ten per cent. of all fire insurance rates throughout the State has become operative, the necessity for which has been attributed to the following causes:—

Increased taxes, including capital stock, income and premium taxes.

Increased cost of printing and supplies.

Salary increases.

Increased cost of material for replacing property partially destroyed or damaged by fire.

Increased volume of losses.

Depreciation of security holdings.

INSURANCE ACT IN BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL HAVE IMPORTANT CHANGES.

A new Superintendent will be appointed in British Columbia to replace Colonel Gunther, dismissed. The Province will be divided into insurance districts, in each of which officials will be appointed to investigate fires and report thereon to Victoria. The chiefs of the various city and town fire departments and the Mayor and Reeves of municipalities are obliged to make monthly reports on the cause and circumstances of every fire by which property is destroyed.

Fire insurance companies will be required to make monthly reports on every fire in which they are interested as insurers and in the case of a company not licensed under the Act, such reports must be made by the company's adjuster and by the person insured. In case any insurance is payable under a policy of insurance covering property affected by a suspicious fire, the superintendent may permit payment to be withheld for a period not exceeding ninety days. Full power is given the superintendent or any official to enter the premises where there has been a fire for purposes of investigation, the superintendent also being clothed with power to order the removal of conditions which may endanger the safety of any structure.

FIRE CHIEFS CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN TORONTO.

The fire chiefs convention is to be held in Toronto, this year.

Fire loss and fire prevention work will be shown in moving pictures. Among papers to be read will be the monetary saving by the installation of the sprinkler systems, proper size of motor pumping engines for different sized municipalities fire prevention legislation in Saskatchewan, and fire escapes, walls, doors and ceilings, what they are, and what they should be.

TORONTO HAS TOO MANY FIRES.

Our contemporary, the Toronto Daily News, says:—

Fires are too frequent in Toronto, particularly in plants engaged in the manufacture or storage of war-supplies. Within a week the Thor Iron Works and the Galena Oil plant have suffered severe losses. The fires may have had natural causes, but the temptation to incendiaryism cannot but be strong in Toronto. Most people here seem to imagine that German spies are too good-natured to trouble us.

SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL

Insurance Company, of Edinburgh, Scotland.

ESTABLISHED 1824

Capital,	\$30,000,000
Total Assets,	79,656,734
Deposited with Dominion Gov't,	391,883
Invested Assets in Canada,	7,695,338

NORTH AMERICAN DEPT., HARTFORD, CONN. U.S.A.

JAMES H. BREWSTER, Manager

ERINHART & EVANS, Resident Agents,	Montreal
MEDLAND & SON,	Toronto
ALLAN KILLAM & McKAY, LTD.,	Winnipeg

THE STRATHCONA FIRE INSURANCE

COMPANY

HEAD OFFICE, 90 St. James Street, MONTREAL

CAPITAL Subscribed \$300,000

By over 500 Notaries of the Province of Quebec

TOTAL ASSETS, December 31st, 1917 . . . \$373,644

President and General Manager, . . . A. A. MONDON