

**INSURANCE COMPANIES AND MUNICIPAL BONDS.**

The annual municipal review compiled by the Financial Post contains several interesting accounts of the recent experiences of insurance executives in regard to their investments in municipal bonds. Mr. George Wegenast, managing director of the Mutual Life of Canada, states that every dollar of principal and interest on the Company's holdings of municipal bonds, now amounting to over \$6½ millions, has always been met at maturity, the holdings embracing cities, towns and villages scattered throughout the Dominion. Mr. Wegenast can recall only one instance of overtures by a municipality for a compromise, an arrangement then being refused. In regard to school district debentures, particularly in the West, concerning which there was formerly much difficulty in the collection of interest coupons, owing to the importance of prompt payment not being appreciated, Mr. Wegenast states that this difficulty has been largely overcome of late owing to the intervention of the Departments of Education.

Similar testimony is given by Mr. L. A. Winter, secretary of the Manufacturers Life. Mr. E. M. Saunders, treasurer of the Canada Life, which holds about \$7 millions municipal debentures, states that "While there are many cases where municipalities have been extravagant in their expenditures in the past, we think they are now alive to the fact that it is necessary to retrench, and the best evidence that they are pursuing this policy is that there are very few offerings of new blocks of debentures from the smaller municipalities." Mr. Saunders states that on a recent trip west, he found any number of these cases, where municipalities are now carrying on their financing on most economical lines.

**AN UNFORTUNATE AMENDMENT.**

Sir Horace Archambault, chief justice of the province of Quebec, last week strongly criticised a recent amendment to the Workmen's Compensation Act, providing that an injured workman may, under certain circumstances, secure judgment for the capital sum represented by the rente.

"This amendment effected to the law, is an unfortunate one," said His Lordship. "The object of the law was to help the injured workman and to make provision to cover his reduced earning capacity in the future. With the amendment, however, it seems to me that the end of the law may be defeated. A workman, obtaining the capital represented by the rente, instead of the rente itself, may fritter away the lump sum awarded him. Again, it may happen that it is an encouragement to workmen to sell their claims, as injured workmen are frequently without the means to enter into litigation. Taking it all in all I consider that the amendment is an unfortunate one."

In the case which called forth these comments the judge in the Lower Court had ordered a defendant employer to pay a capital sum instead of a rente. The Court of Appeals disallowed this, the amendment to the Act permitting the payment of a capital sum having only come into effect subsequent to the accident figuring in the claim.

Settlers are responsible for about 85 per cent. of the forest fire losses in Eastern Canada.—*Canadian Forestry Association.*

**THE RIGHT OF CANCELLATION.**

In the Supreme Court of New York the right of a fire insurance company to cancel a policy upon which it had not received the premium, without tendering the unearned portion of the premium, was upheld, and the case against the company for recovery of a fire loss under a policy so cancelled was dismissed. This is obvious justice, though in the past it has been frequently held that a cancellation notice must be accompanied by the amount of the unearned premium. In the case in question the policy was delivered to the broker, and, apparently, no premium was ever paid the insurance company, although a receipt seems to have been issued erroneously. The notice of cancellation was sent to both broker and insured ninety days after issuance of the policy, and fifteen days before the fire, without eliciting any objection or comment from either until after the fire. The insured contended that he had paid the premium to his broker, and that even if he had not done so the company extended credit to the broker. However, the court held that, if the latter contention was true the credit was terminated by the cancellation notice. This decision seems to go to the heart of the subject, avoiding all entangling considerations and rendering even-handed justice on the actual merits of the case.—*Spectator.*

**PERSONALS.**

Mr. C. W. Edwards, the popular cashier of the Liverpool & London & Globe at Montreal for the past eight years, has joined Major Cape's Heavy Battery, which is going to the front.

Colonel T. E. Vickers, C.B., formerly of the well-known steel firm which bears his name, whose death was recently announced, was a director of the Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation.

Mr. E. J. Chamberlin, president of the Grand Trunk Railway System, has been elected a director of the Molsons Bank, in succession to Mr. D. McNicoll, who resigned on account of his health necessitating frequent absence from Montreal.

Mr. A. A. Wilson, formerly manager of the Fort William branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, has been appointed manager at San Francisco, and is succeeded at Fort William by Mr. R. M. Saunders, formerly manager at Claresholm, Alta.

Mr. T. W. F. Norton has been appointed manager of the British Columbia branch of the Canada Life. Mr. Norton made an excellent record while manager in Calgary for the Federal Life, and since the amalgamation of that company with the Sun Life has occupied a temporary position with the latter.

Mr. E. W. Waud, who succeeds the late Mr. W. H. Draper as superintendent of agencies of the Molsons Bank, is a banker whose uniform courtesy and consideration has made him highly esteemed by the members of the business community who have been brought into contact with him, and a sense of gratification is felt that his many years of service with the Molsons Bank and the ability he has shown in that service have been recognised by further promotion. Mr. Waud's successor as inspector is Mr. H. A. Harries, assistant inspector.