

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INSURANCE FEDERATION OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Annual Meeting of Insurance Federation of B. C.

Work of Past Year Reviewed by President Thompson and Secretary Goodman—Need of Federation Proved by Its Work—A. Z. DeLong New President.

The annual meeting of the Insurance Federation of British Columbia was held in the private dining rooms of the Hudson's Bay Co. on Wednesday, June 9th, with 28 members of the Federation present. Mr. William Thompson, branch manager of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., and president of the Federation, was in the chair, with Mr. A. E. Goodman, Secretary-treasurer, acting as secretary of the meeting.

With the passing of the minutes of the previous annual meeting and the auditors' report, Mr. Thompson presented his report of the year's activities to the members. Mr. Thompson stated that the work of the Federation for the past year certainly justified its existence as it had done a great deal of work in connection with the opposition to the movement for state health insurance as proposed in the last session of the Provincial legislature. Mr. Thompson pointed out that the issue of state health insurance is not dead but only dormant, and that the activities of the Federation must be continued whenever the entering wedge of state insurance of whatever class was proposed. In fact it was the claim of the author of the state health insurance scheme that when it had been passed, efforts would be made to bring the business of fire insurance in the same category. Mr. Thompson then went on to narrate the steps taken in opposition to the state health insurance scheme and showed that not only was it against the best interests of the business of insurance, but was also against the best interests of the public; although this was a business in which the great bulk of those engaged in the insurance profession have no direct interest.

During the past year, Mr. Thompson stated, prominent speakers addressed the Federation and public meetings with regard to insurance which he thought would be productive of a great deal of good. Mr. Thompson paid tribute to the effective work of Messrs. Johnston, Banfield, DeLong and Winthrow, who with the executive committee deserve the thanks of the Federation. He also paid a tribute to the effective work of Secretary Goodman, whose work during the hearings of the Health Commission which sat at various points in the Province was particularly helpful. In conclusion, Mr. Thompson stated "That there is need of a Federation is demonstrated beyond question of doubt, and the fact that in the Province of Manitoba and Ontario branches have also been formed along similar lines speaks for itself. We must keep alert to watch the political horizon for trouble, for rest assured the state fire and health issue are only dormant not dead; and it is imperative that we stand ready to successfully combat these movements so as to protect our business from further encroachment by the Government, and in so doing discourage also attacks from irresponsible socialists who seek in many cases to destroy rather than the upbuilding of law and order."

At the conclusion of his address Mr. Thompson was given a hearty vote of thanks. Mr. A. E. Goodman, secretary of the Federation, presented in detail the activities of the Federation for the year. During the year branches were established at Rossland, Cranbrook, Nelson, Fernie, Trail, Grand Forks and Princeton. Altogether the Federation has 89 contributors to the support of the Federation and during the year there were no resignations. Mr. Goodman then went on to explain the work of the Federation in connection with the hearings of the Health Commission. In October last, Mr. J. B. Laidlaw, manager for Canada of the Norwich Union Fire Insurance Co., gave a public address in the Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver, on the "History of Fire In-

urance" before a large and interested gathering of insurance men and the public. This address was afterwards printed in pamphlet form and widely distributed. The Hon. J. Grove Smith, Dominion Fire Commissioner, also addressed a large public gathering on "Fire Prevention," and Mr. Wall, a prominent Australian insurance man, gave an address to the Federation on State Insurance in Australia. By invitation Mr. R. W. Douglas addressed the Retail Merchants Association on State Health Insurance, and Mr. William Thompson also addressed the Life Insurance Association on the same subject.

The Federation decided after considerable discussion to hold a big insurance convention in Vancouver some time in September, and Messrs. Banfield, Leuty, Ross, Johnston and Wand, with the president and vice-president of the Federation, were appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements. For the effective work which Mr. Goodman did during the year he was given a complimentary vote of thanks by the members.

At the conclusion of the meeting the election of officers took place. Mr. Archibald Z. DeLong was elected president, and Mr. E. P. Winthrow was elected vice-president. It was decided that the executive committee of fifteen would be appointed by the president, vice-president and secretary, in order to bring in all classes of insurance and thus make the Federation more representative in its control of the entire insurance business of the Province.

ANNUAL MEETING OF FIRE AGENTS ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Vancouver Fire Insurance Agents' Association was held in the private dining rooms of the Hudson's Bay Co. on Tuesday, June 8th last. The president, Mr. A. MacC. Creery, was in the chair, Secretary-Treasurer A. E. Goodman acted as secretary of the meeting, with thirty-four members of the Association present.

Mr. Goodman, secretary of the Association, presented his report and narrated that during the ten months which closed on May 31st, thirteen general and executive meetings were held. He recorded the steps taken to organize the Association and bring it into affiliation with the Mainland Board of Fire Underwriters. This was finally given up and it was decided to form an independent association to carry on the work of the fire agents. Of 106 eligibles among the first and second agents in the city, over 100 have joined the Association.

In presenting the president's address, Mr. Creery said: "On July 22nd last year you did me the honor to elect me as your first president. This was done as the University people say 'in absentia.' Had I been at the meeting, I should certainly have urged the election of someone who had devoted more time and energy to the formation of the Association than I had been able to do.

From the secretary's report you will have learned that the Executive Committee has been active in its labors on behalf of the Association, I think we may well congratulate ourselves on the progress made. We have now an Association in which practically all the fire insurance agents in Vancouver eligible for membership are bound together in the silken bonds of friendship and honor for 'The betterment of business under our control.'

"The companies, as such, have their Association and the agents have theirs. There is no conflict between the two; the one is the complement of the other.

"The business, or should I say the profession, of Fire Insurance, should now be on a higher plane than it has been in the past, with resulting benefit to all parties concerned,