THE BOILER INSPECTION & INSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA.

CHANGES IN THE DIRECTORATE.

An interesting event in insurance circles was the election to the directorate, at the annual general meeting of the above company, held on Wednesday last, of Messrs. Arthur L. Eastmure, Francis J. Lightbourn and J. F. Smith, K.C. Mr. Eastmure being subsequently made vice-president and managing director of the company.

The new Board is constituted as follows:—J. L. Blaikie, president; Arthur L. Eastmure, vice-president and managing director; E. W. Rathbun (Deseronto), Francis J. Lightbourn, W. B. McMurrich, K.C., J. F. Smith, K.C., and J. D. McMurrich. Chief Engineer, Geo. C. Robb. Secretary-Treasurer, H. N. Roberts.

The Boiler Inspection & Insurance Company of Canada is the oldest institution of its kind in the Dominion, having been incorporated in April, 1875, under 38 Vic., Cap. 97, and has thus been over thirty years in business. The company's operations, confined strictly to the inspection and insurance of steam boilers, have been uniformly successful.

LAKE OF THE WOODS MILLING COMPANY, LTD.

This company has called a special meeting of its shareholders for 10th April, to ratify and confirm an agreement which the Board of Directors have entered into with the directors of the Keewatin Milling Company, having for its purpose the acquisition by the Lake of the Woods Milling Company of the mill and elevator of the Keewatin Milling Company at Keewatin, Ontario. This mill when completed will have a capacity of 4,000 barrels a day, and the elevator a storage capacity of 500,000 bushels. The new mill is situated about 1,000 yards from the Lake of the Woods mill and with the addition of 4,000 barrels' capacity it will give the Lake of the Woods Milling Company a total milling capacity of about 10,000 barrels per day.

We have not been able to ascertain the terms under which this property is to be acquired, but we understand that they are very favourable to the Lake of the Woods Milling Company. The deal will result in practically doubling the capacity of that company without increasing the capital stock.

The affairs of this company are in the hands of very able men. Mr. Robert Meighen, the president, has been most successful in handling the company to the great advantage of its shareholders, and he has very able assistants in Mr. George V. Hastings, the Western manager, and Mr. Kelly, the head miller. The action of the Board of Directors in declaring a 3 p.c. dividend for the half-year ending 28th of February is a good move, as it now places the stock of this great industrial on the basis of being a regular dividend payer every six months, and thus makes it an attrative investment security.

FIRE ON NOTRE DAME ST., MONTREAL.

By the fire which occurred on the 22nd inst., at the corner of Notre Dame and St. Peter streets, the following companies are interested:

L. Hirshon & Co. (dry goods), Hartford, $4,000; North British & Mercantile, $4,000; Northern, $2,000; Norwich Union, $2,000; Western, $3,000; total, $15,000. Loss total. N. Prevost (dry goods) North British & Mercantile, $3,000; Norwich Union, $1,000; Manitoba, $1,000; Mount Royal, $1,000. Total, $6,000. Loss total.

Building, Liverpool & London & Globe, $10,000; loss about 25 p.c.

LETTER FROM MR. JOHN A. McCALL.

STATES CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH MR. HAMILTON WAS EMPLOYED.

A letter which former President John A. McCall of the New York Life Insurance Company, wrote on the day before his death, in which he stated the conditions under which he employed Andrew Hamilton as legislative agent of that company, was made public on 22nd inst. It was directed to Alexander E. Orr, president of the New York Life Insurance Company, and dated February 16 last. It was written at a moment when Mr. McCall evidently realized that he could not live, and defends himself from the charge of making an improper arrangement with Hamilton.

The letter follows:

My Dear Mr. Orr,—I am conscious that I have but a slight chance to recover, and I am desirous that you and the company officials through you, shall have no doubt of the nature and character of the employment of Andrew Hamilton, if I am not here to be heard when the time arrives to have it made known.

"He was employed by me in 1895 on behalf of the company, to attend specially to matters of taxation and legislation in the United States and other countries affecting the company's interests.

"He refused to accept the duty unless it was made confidential and secret, and that no accounting of moneys advanced to him should be asked of him, or rendered by him, and I assented to the proposition.

"He told me that this condition he would impose as an absolute one, and unless it was accepted he would not undertake the work.

"Whether my action was legal or not it will be left for others to say. I believed it was, and that I was clothed with full power so to act, and that the interests of the company and policy-holders demanded steps of this nature to be taken, but aside from the main reason for my present writing is, that there may remain no doubt as to what my statement would be if I were here, as to the nature and character of Judge Hamilton's retainer and contract.

"Sincerely yours,

"John A. McCall."