

PUTTING THE NEW ONTARIO ACT INTO FORCE.

The Ontario Insurance Department is taking steps to put into effect the new provisions of the Insurance Act passed last session which require the licensing of every insurance broker doing business for companies not licensed in the province, and the depositing of a five-thousand dollar bond.

Application forms, accompanied by marked copies of the Act are being sent out to all the insurance brokers connected with outside companies of which the department has knowledge. It is expected that considerably over one hundred brokers will file bonds with the department.

Mr. W. J. Vale, deputy inspector of insurance, is working upon a plan to secure monthly statements from all brokers licensed under the new clauses of the Act. This statement will require the broker to show the amount of business done each month, and will enable the department, it is anticipated, to keep a check upon the operations of outside companies. Meanwhile the department is keeping a vigilant watch for agents taking business for outside companies without securing licenses.

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INSURANCE LESSONS FROM THE TITANIC.

The conduct of underwriters will be influenced for years to come by the memory of the total loss of the Titanic, writes the London Economist. The result may be to assist the general rise in marine rates which has been in progress now for several years and many forms of insurance will undoubtedly cost more in the future. Whatever happens in the specie market, hull rates will certainly go up, and we shall have done once and for all with premiums based on the theory of unsinkable ships. It is most improbable that any hull will ever again be done at 15s. per cent. per annum, and shipowners who build enormous liners will have the greatest difficulty in getting them covered, as the policies will be written in much smaller lines, and the market will not be big enough to take more than a comparatively small proportion of the value.

The Economist points out how, under modern conditions of miscellaneous underwriting, there is a great difficulty in spreading risks.

It has, of course, always been recognised, proceeds the Economist, that to keep the different kinds of insurance in watertight compartments is an impossibility, and underwriters with big miscellaneous accounts have protected themselves against loss by watching their risks carefully and building up very large reserves for contingencies. But at the same time the insurance market in common with the rest of the world has believed the big North Atlantic liners to be unsinkable, and has never conceived the possibility of a total loss in mid-Atlantic of ship, cargo, passengers and effects. On most sea routes concentration of wealth is not so great that the miscellaneous and marine insurances overlap seriously, but on boats which contain all the enormous personal wealth that passes between Europe and America concentration is inevitable, and now that the steamers have been proved subject to the ordinary marine perils, underwriters will probably have to take a different line, and bear in mind that one disaster may bring claims on ten different kinds of policy. The result may be that underwriting will become rather more specialised; that underwriters who do a big business in specie and diamonds will reduce their lines on passenger steamers, and especially on the big North American boats, and that hull underwriters will be less willing to write the miscellaneous risks. Probably no loss but that of a first-class Atlantic liner could have produced this effect on the market. For this reason, if for no other, the monster ship is very unpopular at present with underwriters, most of whom would welcome a return to the smaller and more convenient vessel of 15 years ago.

The Canadian Fire Record.

TORONTO.—Main lumber yard of R. Laidlaw Company, Ltd., damaged, May 4. Fire started in box car. Loss about \$10,000.

STIRLING, ONT.—Residence of Joseph Bronson, destroyed with part of contents. Origin, defective chimney. Small insurance on building.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—Central Block damaged, May 2. Origin, lighted cigarette or cigar stub carelessly thrown down. Loss covered by insurance.

FORT WILLIAM, ONT.—Business section badly damaged. Losses, Henderson Bros. building \$30,000; Henderson Bros. stock, \$50,000; H. Leff's clothing store, \$25,000; W. G. Colville stock, \$20,000; M. J. Neville, furniture and effects, \$2,500; F. J. McKeown's stock, \$1,000. Individual losses of personal effects \$4,000. Insurance approximates 75 p.c.

SOUTH AUGUSTA, ONT.—Willow cheese factory, owned by James Bissell & Sons, Brockville, destroyed, May 4. Origin, spark from chimney. Loss, 7,000; insurance, \$4,000.

BROCKVILLE, ONT.—New frame residence owned by Gordon Cowan, destroyed, May 4. Supposed origin, incendiary. Loss, \$1,500; insurance, \$300.

MONTREAL.—West End Methodist church, corner of Canning and Coursol streets, damaged, May 3. Outbreak originated in basement from overheated furnace. Loss placed at \$10,000. Residence of J. F. Gallagher, Dunlop Place, Westmount, damaged, May 3. Origin, children playing with matches. Origin of fire in Canada Bronze Powder works, 337 Craig Street West, overheated vessel of composition which flared up. Fire in residence of John Squire, 153 Wellington Street, due to match thrown on floor, which caught curtains.

THE APRIL FIRE LOSS.

The fire losses of the United States and Canada for the month of April, 1912, as compiled by the New York Journal of Commerce, aggregate \$16,394,400, as compared with \$17,670,550 charged against the same month of 1911 and \$18,091,800 in April, 1910. The following table gives a comparison of the losses by fire during the first four months of 1912, with the figures for the same months in 1911 and 1910, together with the record for the balance of those years:

	1910.	1911.	1912.
January	15,175,400	\$21,922,450	\$35,653,450
February	15,489,350	16,415,000	28,601,650
March	18,465,500	31,569,800	16,650,850
April	18,091,800	17,670,550	16,394,400
Tot. 4 months . . .	\$67,222,050	\$87,577,800	\$97,300,350
May	18,823,200	21,422,000	
June	12,183,600	20,691,950	
July	26,847,900	25,301,150	
August	21,570,550	12,662,650	
September	11,700,000	11,333,250	
October	37,188,300	13,945,000	
November	16,407,000	16,880,600	
December	21,528,000	22,722,850	
Tot. for y'r.	\$234,470,600	\$234,337,250	

There were 259 fires during April, this year, causing an estimated property damage of \$10,000 or over in each instance. The large fires during the month just closed numbered eighteen, which caused a property damage of \$200,000 or over.

It is very apparent, says the Journal of Commerce, that unless the fire losses for the balance of this year are lighter than for the same period of 1911, the fire underwriters generally will do business at a loss for 1912.