

To the future historian, 1919 will probably be known as the year of transition, when the world, having rid itself of the gravest threat to its existence that modern civilization has known, began the effort to re-adjust itself to the task of production, development and culture. Necessarily, the beginning of that effort has been marked by many mistakes, much stumbling, and the endless creaking of machinery. But only to those with soft heads as well as soft hearts, who believed in the possibility of a short cut to the millineum through the gigantic upheaval of a five years world war, has 1919 been a year of disillusionment. There have of course, been disappointments, of which perhaps the greatest have been the demonstrations of class selfishness in many countries, and the fresh revelation of the petty character of the minds that exercise policital authority among our neighbours to the south. But those disappointments have not been in vital matters, and looking back over the twelve months, it can be easily seen that real and solid progress in the re-adjustment of world affairs has been made.

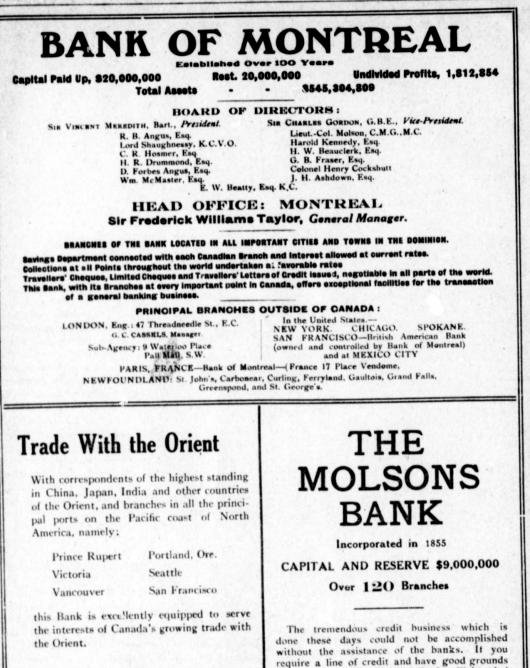
In Canada, the problem of demobilisation, a problem which a year ago loomed very largely on the horizon, has been settled satisfactorily on the whole. Canada's army, whose magnificent record will make forever, the most glorious page in Canadian annals, has been re-absorbed into civil life. A grateful country has dealt generously with the returned men, and the men, with the exception of an inevitable minority of malcontents are well satisfied with the treatment given them. A clean-up of the special loan financing has been made through the successful flotation of the latest Victory Loan—a success which was the more moteworthy in view of the diminished incentive to subscription in comparison with previous loans.

On the whole, while trade and industry have been prosperous, much more prosperous indeed than could have been anticipated a year ago. While war activities have ceased, others have been getting under way, and if the industrial mechanic is not yet recovering normally, the wise policy of extending Government credits to our customers abroad, has ensured a wide and ready demand for our staple products. If prices have been high and steadily going higher, so have wages, there has been comparative freedon, at least relatively with other beligerent countries, from labour troubles, bank deposits have been largely increased and very considerable amounts of permanent investment securities absorbed, and the extraordinary freedom with which buying was carried on during the recent Christmas season, is evidence of a very widely spread plenitude of funds — not always, perhaps, wisely used.

·Canadians, however, are materially more concerned with the future than with the past, and at the turn of the year, it is to be expected that we should be concerned more with prospect than retrospect. A year ago our main concern was with problems which, if stormy enough, were temporary problems-such as demobilization. To-day we are concerned with problems of a my sumore permanent character-the our conditions, national finance, re-adjustment of taxation, exchange, asting developments in commerce and industry. Many of these problems are extremely serious and complicated ones, and while in the light of the experience of the past, they can be attacked with confidence-and Canadians have never lacked courage and confidence-it would be merely rashness to underrate the gravity of their character or the vital necessity of the rightful importance of their solution. To take first which may be called (in a narrow sense) National problems. The political outlook is distinctly unsettled. During 1919 there have been developments in politics which foreshadowed sooner or later far-reaching changes in the political control of the Dominion. In the present condition of an unsettled public mind, and in a democracy where one man's vote is as good as another-although the one may be a wise man and the other a fool-anything may happen politically. Again, it is to be borne in mind, that the individual taxpayer has not yet felt the full effects of war tacation. For instance, the Dominion Income Tax on the 1919 scale, which is much higher than the scales for the two preceding years, will not be collected until well in the next year. A short time ago, the Minister of Finance infinated that taxation might have to be increased, at least temporarily. It is also to be remembered that, while the recent Victory Loan made a clearance of war obligations, except possibly for a comparatively small amount, no provision has yet been made through taxation for the creation of a Sinking Fund, a vital necessity, in the interests of sound finance-in view

(Continued on page 5).

Montreal, January 2, 1920



# The Canadian Bank of Commerce Capital Not 10 \$15,000,000 Reserve fund \$15,000,000

HEAD OFFICE: - MONTREAL E. C. PRATT, General Manager

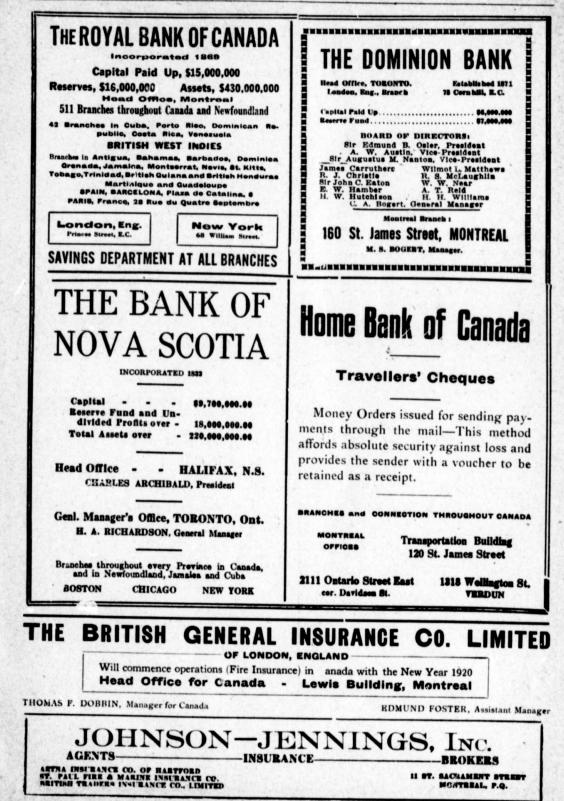
to base it on, The Molsons Bank will be glad

to advise and assist you as far as it can. Have

a talk with the Manager.

2 No. 1

#### No. 1 3



Montreal, January 2, 1920



4 No. 1

Montreal, January 2, 1920

THE CHRONICLE

Dec. 7.

14 ....

21....

# The Chronicle

# Banking, Insurance and finance

ESTABLISHED 1881. PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY F. WILSON-SMITH, Proprietor and Managing Editor. Office: 406-408 LAKE OF THE WOODS BUILDING,

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, JANUARY 2nd, 1920

### 1919 - 1920

#### (Continued from front page)

of the increased size of the National Debt. It is possible that the enlarged burden of taxation upon the individual taxpayer will be compensated for to some extent by a gradual decrease in the price of commodities. But it is not to be expected that declines in this respect can be other than very gradual, and the increased financial burden, which may have to be borne by the individual needs to be carried in mind.

This question is related to that of domestic and particularly retail trade. There is no doubt that much of the purchasing of commodities by all kinds of people, which has marked the last twelve months, is due largely to the dissipation of war profits or earnings and of War gratutities. What has been happening in Canada in that respect appears to be by all accounts, a mild imitation of the orgy of spending which has been going on in the United States and in Great Britain and France. Readers of Thackeray's immortal pages in "Vanity Fair," will be aware that an orgy of spending in the early days of peace is no new thing-but on this occasion it is on a very much larger scale than anything previously known in history. For how long this "blowing-in" process will continue remains to be seen. But it is certain that it will slow down sooner or later, and that, though possibly not during 1920, there will be a considerable failing off in demand of high priced commodities and luxuries, unless in the meantime there is an accumulation of new means to purchase them. This matter is related to that of wage adjustment-a thorny problem that is likely to demand all the attention that can be given it before the year 1920 is out.

These are some of the unpleasant features of the outlook into 1920 for Canadians; but it may be said that they are balanced, and possibly more than balanced by the favourable features of the outlook. Canada, although hampered with a proportionately heavy National Debt, is probably in a more favorable position than any other of the beligerent countries, except possibly the United States. The products of which it has the most ample supplies are those most in

demand by a hungry world. Its pulp and paper industry is flourishing to an extent which would have been inconceivable a few years ago, and has apparently, at least, several years of remarkable prosperity before it. While exchange continues in its present abnormal conditions, it will no doubt constitute a heavy handicap to the development of an export trade in manufactured products. But with so urgent a need of foodstuffs and raw materials of various kinds which we can supply in ample measure, it may be anticipated with some confidence that exchange is not likely to stand in the way of the export of these. Construction of various kinds, held in suspense during the War, is being got under way again, and if supplies in many directions are still exceedingly short, further production and the increased supply of shipping movements, should serve gradually to ameliorate this condition.

On the whole then, we may look forward to the New Year with confidence. There are difficulties ahead, but not of such a character that brains and industry cannot overcome them. In this spirit "The Chronicle" wishes its readers in all sincerity, "A Prosperous New Year."

#### TRAFFIC RETURNS.

#### **Canadian** Pacific Railway

Year to date	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Nov. 30	\$136,010,000	\$138,420,000	\$158.390.000	\$17.970.000
Week ending	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Dec. 7	3,289,000	3,480,000	3,797,000	
" 14	2,908,000	3,780,000		
" 21	· · · · · · · · ·	3,731,000	3,715,000	Dec. 16,000
	Grand	Trunk Rai	way.	
Year to date	1917	1918	1919	Increase
Nov. 30	\$53.960.414	\$53 979 030	CAL 546 195	CO 074 004

Week ending Dec. 7	1917 831,442	1918	1919	Increase	
Dec. 1	031,442	*******			
1.2	Canadian	National R	ailways.		
Year to date Nov. 30	1917	1918 \$72,809,715	1919 \$82,698,389	Increase 9,888,674	
week ending	1917	1918	1919	Increase	

1,714,173

1,800,902

2,095,401

2,070,372

1.918.932

2,002,317 Dec. 91,084

356, 199

118.030

#### THE FIRE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF MONTREAL

Mr. F. J. Laverty, K.C., will address the members of the Fire Insurance Association of Montreal on the 7th instant at 5.30 p.m. in the C.F.U.A. Board Room Coristine Building, Mr. Laverty has chosen for the subject of his address "Law of Fire Insurance," on which he is a recognized authority in Canada. The Fire Insurance Association of Montreal, is associated with the "Ancient and Honourable Order of the Blue Goose," and has for its object the promotion of knowledge of fire insurance. A very interesting syllabus has been arranged for 1920.

THE CHRONICLE

Montreal, January 2, 1920



## THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

Individual banks, like human individuals, have their individual characteristics, and among the Canadian institutions, there are well-marked features peculiar to each institution. The individual feature in the case of the Canadian Bank of Commerce is that it has always lived up to its name. It has constantly been, and still remains, an institution peculiarly and essentially devoted to the business of commercial banking. For many years its Canadian current loans and discounts-a reliable guide in this connection-have been far in advance of any other Canadian banking institution. At the 30th November last in fact, they represented nearly one-fifth of the total of such loans made by all the banks. This fact alone shows the extent of the success with which the Canadian Bank of Commerce has cultivated its own special field.

Compared with a year ago, the commercial loans of this bank show an increase of about \$14,500,000-\$213,189,170 compared with \$199,672,294. This increase represents no more, it may be fairly said, than the rise in value of almost all staple commodities within the twelve months. Allowance being made for this rise in values, it would be seen that the commercial loans of this bank have been practically stationary. The fact is an interesting comment upon the present condition of trade and finance. Some industries, notably those connected with pulp and paper, are in a very flourishing condition, and probably relying to a considerably lesser extent than ever before, upon bank accommodation for their financing. War industries have almost ceased, and no longer make demands upon the banks. Still, other industries, of a normal character are running at a slow speed, development waiting upon reduction in cost of materials. and assurance of a regular supply of labour. On the whole we are inclined to think that it would be a healthy sign if current loans in Canada by the banks now began to show some signs of expansion. The one need of the present day is more commodities, and an increase in these loans would be an excellent sign that this need was beginning to be met.

A satisfactory feature of the financial statement appearing on another page is the reduction in the amount of real estate other than bank premises, in comparison with last year. Mainly as a result of the acquisition of the Eastern Townships Bank several years ago, the Canadian Bank of Commerce acquired a considerable amount of real estate, not needed for its banking operations, and the wise policy of disposing of this as suitable opportunity arose is evidently being followed. The item this year reaches only \$467,000 compared with \$1,118,000 a year ago and no doubt it is merely a question of time before this item disappears altogether. Bank premises also are being substantially written down.

One allocation of profits (which top the three million dollar mark), is \$750,000, to adjust British and foreign investments on existing exchange rates, not otherwise provided, is a reminder that the present condition of our exchange has exceedingly serious results for many financial and other institutions, though it may be hoped that these results in some cases are only temporary. Certainly in the case of long term investments it is to be expected that prior to their maturity exchange will have assumed a more favourable aspect.

Outstanding features of a report which makes exceedingly satisfactory reading are only here touched upon. As Canada's leading commercial bank, the Canadian Bank of Commerce has a great responsibility; a responsibility which is faithfully and wisely met.

# INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY FOR FIRE LOSSES

Following a practice which is quite general in Europe and some other countries and which has proved most effective in reducing losses by increasing the sense of personal responsibility. The national Fire Protection Association's Committee on Public Information is pushing a campaign for the enactment of municipal ordinances requiring persons on whose premises fires occur, as the result of the violation of building laws or fire department orders, to repay to the city authorities the expenses incuried in the extinguishing of such fires.

This principle has received recognition in individual cities throughout the country but there has been no concerted, action of this kind. In Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio, ordinances of this kind have been enacted and are regarded as the leaders in the movement. In Texas, the example of the capital city of Austin has been followed by five other cities. Newark New Jersey, included an individual liability provision in its fire prevention code last year and a definite effort is being made to have this followed throughout the state. The city authorities of Detroit are reported considering the matter and it is hoped that it will soon be adopted.

It might reasonably be expected that laws of this kind would not only reduce the number of fires due to carelessness and disregard of prevention rules, but would also have a restraining effect upon the firebug and his works.

# ROYAL EXCHANGE ASSURANCE

Mr. E. B. Hiles, who has been fire manager of the Royal Exchange Assurance, London, England, sinces 1902, retired from that position on 31st Dec., the directors having acceded to his request to be relieved from further service. To succeed Mr. Hiles, the appointment is announced of Mr. F. Daniell, who has acted as joint manager since 1912. Mr. W. T. Grieg, formerly the Corporation's manager at Buenos Ayres, will assume the duties and title of assistant fire manager at the head office. TO THE PUBLIC:

#### THE CHRONICLE

Montreal, January 2, 1920



# THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE

# Statement of the result of the business of the Bank for the year ending 29th November, 1919

Balance at credit of Profit and Loss Account brought forward from last year. Net Profits for the year ending 29th November, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts	\$ 1,444,842.68 3,074,892.72
	\$ 4,519,735.40
This has been appropriated as follows: Dividends Nos. 128, 129, 130 and 131, at twelve per cent. per annum War tax on bank-note circulation to 29th November Written off Bank Premises Transferred to Pension Fund To adjust British and Foreign investments on existing exchange rates, not otherwise provided.	1,800,000.00 150,000.00 250,000.00 120,000.00 750,000.00
Subscriptions: \$ 5,000.00   Salvation Army \$ 5,000.00   University of Toronto Memorial Fund 2,500.00   Soldiers' Emergency Fund, Repatriation Campaign 10,000.00   Navy League of Canada 2,500.00   Sundry Subscriptions 2,000.00	
Balance carried forward	22,000.00 1,427,735.40
	\$ 4,519,735.40

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

29th NOVEMBER, 1919

#### LIABILITIES

Notes of the Bank in circulation     Deposits not bearing interest   \$151,688,481.7     Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date.   \$151,688,481.7	9
Balances due to other Banks in Canada Balances due to Banks and Banking Correspondents elsewhere than in Canada Bills Payable. Acceptances under Letters of Credit	74,816.06 8,727,208.45
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS:	\$447,762,467.38
Dividends Unpaid Dividend No. 131, payable 1st December Capital Paid up. \$ 15,000,000,00 Rest Account \$ 15,000,000,00	4,002.86 450,000.00
S   15,000,000.00     Balance of Profits as per Profit and Loss Account.   15,000,000.00     Item 1,427,735.44   1,427,735.44	3
	- 31,427,735.40
	\$ 479,644,205.64

(Continued on page 9)

ASSETS			
Gold and Silver Coin Curr <b>ent</b> on hand. Gold deposited in Central Gold Reserves	6,500,000.00	\$ 21,925,252.93	
Dominion Notes on hand Dominion Notes deposited in Central Gold Reserves	\$ 31,436,349.25	41,436,349.25	\$ 63,361,602.18
Notes of other Banks Cheques or other Banks Balances due by other Banks in Canada Balances due by Banks and Banking C		\$ 2,433,211.00 14,372,830.21	
Dominion and Provincial Government Securities, not exceeding British, Foreign and Colonial Public Securities, not exceeding	an in Canada market value Municipal Securities	10,589,390.95 , not exceeding	27,395,908.75 46,865,379.16
Rallway and other Bonds, Debentures and Stocks, not exceeding Call and Short Loans (not exceeding 30 days) in Canada on Bon Call and Short Loans (not exceeding 30 days) elsewhere than in Deposit with the Minister of Finance for the purposes of the Cir	ids, Debentures and	Stocks	29,847,537.20 5,953,791.41 20,750,828.04 24,854,885.75 881,791.81
Other Current Loans and Discounts in Canada (less rebate of im Other Current Loans and Discounts elsewhere than in Canada (l Liabilities of Customers under Letters of Credit, as per contra Overdue Debts (estimated loss provided for). Real Estate other than Bark Premises Mortgages on Real Estate sold by the Bank Bank Premises at cost, less amounts written off Dther Assets not included in the foregoing	less rebate of interes	st)	\$ 219,911,724.30 213,189,170.54 24,938,269.89 14,866,446.19 137,120.45 467,650.60 203,381.18 5,859,008.22 71,434.27
		1. A. A. A.	\$ 479,644,205.64
B. E. WALKER, President		JOHN AIRE General M	
Report of the Auditors to the Shareholders of	The Canadian B	ank of Comm	erce
In accordance with the provisions of sub-sections 19 and 20 of section We have audited the above Balance Sheet and compared it with the box om the branches. We have obtained all the information and evaluations at			

In our opinion the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the state of the affairs of the Bank according to the best of our information and the explanations given to us, and as shown by the books of the Banks.

> T. HARRY WEBB, C.A. of George A. Touche & Co. JAMES MARWICK, C.A. of Marwick, Mitchell, Peat & Co.

#### GARAGE HAZARD !

There are probably as many private cars now as there were bicycles twenty years ago when the "bicycle craze" blew up one morning. The automobile is far more practical than the bicycle and we shall probably see the number vastly increase. There is no doubt that is is destroying the beauty of city streets and that it is spreading fire hazards into all parts of cities. Parking of thousands of cars in business centers turns the streets into al fresco garages choking them up against convenient use by street cars and rendering the passage of fire engines difficult in case of fire.

The "Insurance Field" says:---

Instead of beauty every street now looks like a cross between an old-fashioned livery stable and a machine shop. In view of the undoubted necessity of the machine for modern purposes much of this cannot be avoided. As the pressure grows and the nuisance increases some way out will be found but at present the interferences are on the increase with no relief in sight.

Worse than this as a fire hazard is the creeping of public and private garages into all quarters of cities and towns. Explosive gasoline is thus distributed everywhere and the inseparable grease and oil saturation that goes with it is preparing powder trains for the future. It is not only a danger to property but to human life. A technical paper describes how it is invading even summer resorts. One of them is erecting a garage to accommodate more than a hundred cars. The quantity of gasoline thus combined would average about 1,000 gallons. Over and connected with this are sleeping and living quarters for chauffeurs! Imagine what would happen if a fire broke out. It reads like staging disaster for the movies. In a degree this is going on in every city and town and municipal authorities will not wake up to the danger until it is too late and then billions will have been invested in hazards it will be difficult to guard.

Underwriters, at least, should be studying the menace and discovering what rate will be necessary to meet the increased toll of fire loss.

THE CHRONICLE

Montreal, January 2, 1920



#### No. 1 11

#### THE ROYAL BANK'S STATEMENT

The rise of the Royal Bank of Canada is a romance of Canadian Banking history. So recently as 1907 -to go no further back than twelve years-the total assets of this bank were under \$50,000,000. In the annual statement for the year ended 30th November last, total assets are reported as \$533,647,085. Expansion on this scale is without parallel in Canada, and the probabilities are that it has few parallels in the banking chronicles of either the United States or of Great Britain.

This progress is in part due to the enterprise which has distinguished this bank for some years past in the development of connections abroad. The old standing trade interests, between Halifax, the Royal Bank's old home, and the West Indies had the natural result of the establishment of the Bank's first southern branches, and the modest beginning in foreign connections made in those days, has since been followed by very wide expansion. The development of these foreign connections has culminated for the time being within the current year in the formation of a close working arangement with one of the most important British banking institutions, the London County, Westminster and Paris Bank, an example of banking arrangement interest, we are inclined to think, is likely enough to be followed by other Canadian banking institutions at no distant date. The importance of the Banks foreign connections, is indicated by the fact that current loans abroad are shown in the present statement at over \$90,000,000, while the banks holdings of United States currency, and other foreign money are over \$11,000,000. Considering the present importance of the banks foreign connections, it would we think, be interesting, if in future annual statements the amount of deposits abroad were to be separately stated, as well as the loans made by the Bank in connection with its foreign business.

The figures of the financial statement are given in full on another page, but attention may be drawn to the remarkable increase in assets compared with a year ago, of over \$100,000,000, and also the very large increase in deposits of over \$86,500,000. At the same time liquid assets are in a satisfactory proportion to liabilities to the public of over 55 per cent.

Profits are on the way to \$3,500,000, and to signalize its semi-centennial, the Bank, made a special distribution of a bonus of 2 per cent. by way of a "Christmas box" to its shareholders. We are glad to note a generous distribution was also made at the same time among the staff. While there has lately been a considerable amount of exaggerated talk regarding the poverty of the salaries of bank staffs, the fact remains, that the present high cost of living is felt most severely by the salaried classes, whose remuneration has increased in proportion to the rise in prices, less than that of any other portion of the community. The real value of such bonuses as that distributed by the Royal Bank and other institutions, is however,

less in the actual amount, than in its indication to the staff, of a real appreciation of their services, and in its utility in increasing, their loyalty and interest.

The Royal Bank is now entering upon the second half century of its history. The speeding of its enterprise over such wide and divergent fields, outside the Dominion naturally involves additional and heavy responsibilities. It may be said, however, that if the Royal Bank continues to be directed with the business shrewdness which has marked its course in recent years, that a future of great success is assured.

#### INVESTMENT OF INSURANCE FUNDS

MR. A. R. HORR (Vice-president, Equitable Life New -York), views on the investment of funds are of much interest to financial and insurance men. He says:-

"It is an axiom of the banking and investment profession that safety of principal varies inversely with the rate of interest. If a low return is deemed adequate, investments can always be procured in which the element of risk is almost non-existent. But a vast amount of money is invested on the promise of high interest rates or dividends. Generally speaking, the security behind investments of this class cannot be compared with that of low yield bonds. So those who are called upon to invest the Equitable's funds are between two fires. One is the tendency to be unduly exacting as to security at the expense of income; the other is the desire to increase the average return on the Society's investments. In view of these opposing factors, it is often difficult to reach a conclusion on a specific investment or loan. Competition emphasizes the apparent advantages of higher yield, and often it takes no little moral courage and determination to decline offerings that are especially attractive from the standpoint of income.

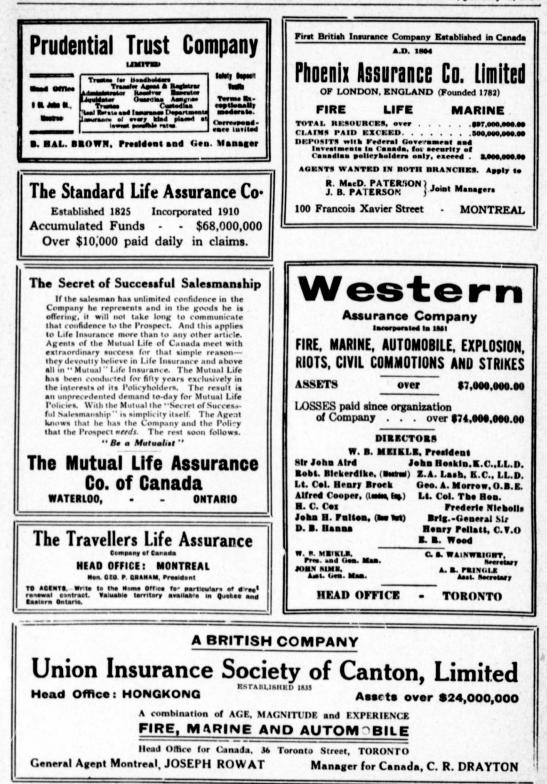
"Only a small proportion of the investments offered to the Society meet the requirements both of adequate yield and safety. Under normal conditions probably only one or two per cent. of the investments offered are purchased. Certainly the Equitable could not be accused of neglecting security in favor of higher yield. The human mind is not infallible of course, but the members of the finance committee doubtless feel that if they are yielding unduly to either of these conflicting forces, they had better err on the side of too great conservatism.

"The methods of procedure in the investment of the Society's funds are about as follows: Suggested loans or investments are first critically examined in the comptroller's or treasurer's department, according to the class of security offered. They are then presented to the finance committee, which meets weekly. The committee consists of the president, and four directors who are not officers of the Society. Two of the vice-presidents, the comptroller and the secretary of the committee, also participate in its

(Continued on page 13).

THE CHRONICLE

Montreal, January 2, 1920



deliberations. Everyone present at these meetings is encouraged to express his convictions with the utmost frankness. One dissenting vote kills any proposed investment.

"In making investments absolute open house is maintained. The source from which an offering comes receives slight consideration beyond the natural desire to avoid dealing with those who are irresponsible. The committee, however, seeks, so far as may be found practicable, to distribute the Society's investments in those localities from which its business is derived.

"Perhaps the most common fault among the executives of banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions is the tendency to neglect to watch investments after they are once made. As long as interest is paid promptly on a bond or a loan, it is not unnatural to assume that the security is unimpaired. Obviously such a conclusion may be fallacious. Therefore a high test of the efficiency of management of such a corporation is found in its methods of keeping in touch with its own investments. There are no established standards to be followed. The available means of procuring information are not wholly adequate or reliable. Constant vigilance and hard work are necessary and will show results. It is probably no exaggeration to say that in the best managed insurance companies and savings banks, ten hours are devoted to studying the investments already on the books, as compared with one or two hours spent in the study of new offerings.

"It would be quite beyond the scope of this brief article to attempt to describe the methods that are followed by the Equitable's financial officers to keep in touch with the security behind the vast volume of its investments. Reappraisal of real estate loans from time to time, following up fire insurance and payment of taxes, the study of railroad earnings and statements procuring and comparing financial statements of cities, municipalities and counties, securing data as to railroad maintenance, receiving reports from specialists or opinions from the Society's own directors as to certain securities. following the current news and comments in financial publications; these are some of the means adopted to this end."

# MONTREAL FIRE COMMISSIONER WANTS NEW LEGISLATION RE FIRE IN-VESTIGATION

The following was published in the "Gazette" this week:-

"An amendment to the statute governing the Fire Commissioners' office will be asked for at the present session of the Provincial Legislature. This proposed amendment has been suggested by Fire Commissioner Latulippe after long study of the subject, and is aimed at the general reduction of the number of fires by making the public aware that every fire will have to stand the scrutiny of a thorough investigation. It is proposed that the statute should be amended in the sense of prohibiting insurance companies from settling a loss claim before an investigation has been held by the Commissioners into the cause of the fire, with the proviso that a certain definitely limited time shall be given them within which to make their inquiry. This proposed legislation has been endorsed by the Administrative Commission, the Board of Trade, Chambre de Commerce and other prominent public bodies and men. It was presented for the action of the Legislature late in last year's session, but time did not permit taking it up. It was at that time commented upon favorably by members of the

Government to whose attention it was brought. "Mr. Latulippe points out that inquiries are held into the cause of about one-third of the fires occurring in-Montreal, that it is known that many fires are set with criminal intent, and that if it could be so arranged that to obtain a profit from a fire would be impossible, the number of fires would be greatly reduced. He states that in many cases claims have been reduced by from one-half to two-thirds, as a result of the Commissioners' inquiry. Managers of insurance companies have admitted that they in some instances have paid amounts five times as great as the actual loss in fires which have not been investigated, the commissioner here pointing out the temptation which is offered under the present system, to a person finding himself in financial difficulties."

The "Chronicle" while not wishing to discourage any legislation looking towards the decreasing of the fire loss, would point out that the statements attributed to Mr. Latulippe, to the effect that the insurance managers have in some cases paid amounts, five times as large as the actual loss, in fires that have not been investigated, is somewhat overdrawn, as it is a wellknown fact that every properly managed insurance company conducts an investigation on its own account by a qualified man, before paying any loss.

As the work of the Fire Commissioners in Montreal is of much interest both to the public and the insurance fraternity; we would suggest that the proposed amendment be accompanied by a report from the fire Commissioners, showing the number of investigations held during the year, and briefly state the number of convictions obtained as a result of these investigations.

As it is unlikely that incendiaries confine operations strictly to the limits of Montreal, why not apply the proposed new legislation to cover all towns in the Province having a fire commissioner.

We note that the Montreal Administrative Commission has adopted a resolution favourable to Mr. Latulippe's recommendation, we would suggest that if the administrative Commissioners are really concerned about the fire losses of Montreal, as we assume they are, there is no direction in which their energies could be better applied, than that of re-organizing the fire brigade, and making the necessary improvements in fire appliances.

THE CHRONICLE Montreal, January 2, 1920



#### AN INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR MONTREAL

Montreal 23rd December, 1919. The Editor, The "Chronicle," Montreal. Dear Sir:---

Your interesting remarks appear most opportunely.

It is just twelve months since a series of weekly lectures were started, the results of which were published in a journal. This year a step forward, and upward, has been achieved, in the election of three Executive Officials of leading fire companies as president and vice-presidents. The syllabus for the 1920 session beginning Wednesday, January 7th, embraces a wide range of interesting subjects on, and related to, fire Insurance, by qualified speakers.

The lack of an institute militates all round against improvement. Study is not encouraged and junior officials are left to grope in the dark. Their willingness to learn is well known, but the kindly guiding, controlling influences vital to all real and lasting achievement are still hoped for, but at present are for the most part absent.

Until we have a training centre for our young men we shall not be able to attract to our staffs, the better educated and higher standard of juniors. I do not impute that in our profession there are not to day many young men of good standing and promise: but I do say that unless and until we establish a training centre we shall not attract in sufficient numbers the best of the graduates of high school or college in search of a career. I think this is clearly borne out by the present day dearth of efficient clerks.

Let us compare fire insurance with other professions in which years are spent in training and we see the comparison is, truly, not promising. We suffer in contrast with architecture, accountancy, engineering, medicine and finance. In no other city within the Empire are the handicaps so great for the would be fire insurance official as in Montreal. The greater credit, it is true, to those able gentlemen who have already attained to high positions; but in the coming age of specialism and technicality let the means be furnished to overcome the difficulties. To Montreal, the city of head Offices, the other centres of the Dominion will naturally look for a sound lead.

Many able managers have contributed to bring the C.F.U.A. to its present state of prominence and wide influence. Let us hope that their successors may be fittingly trained to carry on and develop their splendid record.

It would indeed be a pity if we fall behind in this matter of training our younger men. Other centres are going ahead and, if we do not see to it now, it will surely happen that the next generation of managers shall be largely drawn from other cities and perhaps, even other countries.

There is another aspect which demands consideraation. Instead of enrolling its own stafi as juniors and training them from the beginning many companies ignore the basic principles of ordinary business ethics and have no hesitation in offering inducements to employees of other offices in which some effort has been made to teach the principles and correct practice of the profession. With a live institute teaching all employees this practice would largely disappear.

An institute is primarily for the encouragement of study of the principles and practice of our profession. It is not a panacea for all ills; it would impart a standing and a finish to its members and the profession as a whole, which, today, exist only in isolated instances.

But a successful institute cannot thrive in an atmosphere of apathy.

> I am, Sir, Yours truly,

"JURIUS."

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The Royal Bank	-	
GENERAL STATI	EMENT	
29th November, 15	19	
LIABILITIES		
TO THE PUBLIC : Deposits not bearing interest	\$159,656,229.68	
Deposits bearing interest, including interest accrued to date of statement	259,465,169.69	\$419,121,399.37
Notes of the Bank in Circulation		39,837,265.74 14,000,000.00
Balances due to other Banks in Canada Balances due to Banks and Banking Correspondents in the United Kindgom and	\$ 13,970.88	
foreign countries.		7,463,823.30
Bills Payable		806,776.89 16,467,978.69
		\$ 497,697,243.99
TO THE SHAREHOLDERS: apital Stock Paid up		17,000,000.00
Balance of Profits carried forward	\$ 17,000,000.00	11,000,000,000
		18,096,418.74
Dividends Unclaimd. Dividend No. 129 (at 12 per cent. per annum), payable December 1st, 1919 Ciftieth Anniversary Bonus of 2%, payable December 20th, 1919	505,219.12 340,000.00	
intern Anniversary bonus of 2%, payarile December 20th, 1919	340,000.00	853,422.20
		\$533,647,084.93
ASSETS	\$17,653,879.92	
Dominion Notes	26,735,724.00	
United States Currency	8,746,805.00 2,545,138.41	
	\$ 55,681,547.33	
Deposit in the Central Gold Reserves	3,464,200.00	
heques on other Banks. Balances due by other Banks in Canada	23,757,240.33 17,103.80	
Balances due by other Banks in Canada Salances due by Banks and Banking Correspondents elsewhere than in Canada Dominion and Provincial Government Securities, not exceeding market value	18,101,373.08 45,323,598.66	
Canadian Municipal Securities and British, Foreign and Colonial Public Securities		
other that Canadian, not exceeding market value	33,400,542.77 19,414,891.06	
all Loans in Canada, on Bonds, Debentures and Stocks	16,435,614.30 33,812,751.53	
Other Current Loans and Discounts in Canada (less rebate of interest)		\$273,908,862.86
Other Current Loans and Discounts elsewhere than in Canada (less rebate of		
interest). Werdue Debts (estimated loss provided for).		

\$533,647,084.93

H. S. HOLT, President.

EDSON L. PEASE, Managing Director. (Continued on page 17)

C. E. NEILL, General Manager.

\*

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THE CHRONICLE

Montreal, January 2, 1920

The Royal Bank of Canada	-Continued from page 16		
	Auditors' Certificate		
time, as required by Section 56 of the Bank Act a huring the year checked the cash and verified the s That the above Balance Sheet has been co	Bank which have come under our notice have bee the securities of the Bank at the Chief Office at 29th and that we found they agreed with the entries in courities at the principal branches. mpared by us with the books at the Chief Office a so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the statk to us and as shown by the books of the Bank.	November, 1919, the books in rega and with the certi- e of the Bank's aff.	as well as at another rd thereto. We also fied returns from the airs according to the
Montzeal, Canada, 18th December, 1919,	JAMES MARWI S. ROGER MIT of Marwick JOHN W. ROSS, 6	CK, C.A. CHELL, C.A. Mitchell, Peat at C.A., of P. S. ROS	nd Co. S & Sons.
PROF	IT AND LOSS ACCOUNT		
accrued interest on deposits, full prov	November, 1918 \$ s of management and all other expenses, ision for all bad and doubtful debts and	535,757.19 3,423,264.34	e 2050.001 51
APPROPRIATED AS FOLLOWS: Dividends Nos. 126, 127, 128 and 129 at 1 Fiftieth Anniversary Bonus of 2 per cent. Fransferred to Officers' Pension Fund Vritten off Bank Premises Account Var Tax on Bank Note Circulation Balance of Profit and Loss carried forward	***************************************	$\begin{array}{c} 1,866,196.50\\ 340,000.00\\ 100,000.00\\ 400,000.00\\ 156,406.29\\ 1,096,418.74 \end{array}$	\$ <u>3,959,021.53</u> \$ 3,959,021.53
	<b>RESERVE FUND</b>		\$ 3,939,021.33
Balance at Credit, 30th November, 1918 Premium on New Capital Stock	\$	15,000,000.00 2,000,000.00	
Balance at Credit 29th November, 1919			\$ 17,000,000.00
H. S. HOLT, President.	EDSON L. PEASE, Managing Director.	C. E. NEIL	L, Manager.
Aontreal, 18th December, 1919.		Selicial	ananager.

# INSURANCE INSTITUTES

For the purpose of extending to those engaged in thebusiness of insurance, facilities for receiving systematic instruction, the Insurance Institute of America will be incorporated within the next few weeks.

It is patent to anybody that the higher the capacity of the men in a business the more that business thrives and the better it stands in the public estimation. The insurance business will receive good dividends from a reasonable investment in facilities for the education of young insurance men and women who are sufficiently earnest in their desire to advance, so that they are ready to avail themselves of those facilities.

It has usually taken many years for those engaged in any profession or business to recognize that training by experience could profitably be supplemented by systematic instruction.

Business generally is coming to a recongnition of the fact that education outside of that given in the school of experience is essential, or at least desirable.

Readers of the "Chronicle," especially those engaged in the business of insurance will be interested in the following comments of the "New York Journal of Commerce," particularly in view of the fact that the formation of an Insurance Institute for Montreal is a possibility in the near future, providing it has the approval and support of the companies generally

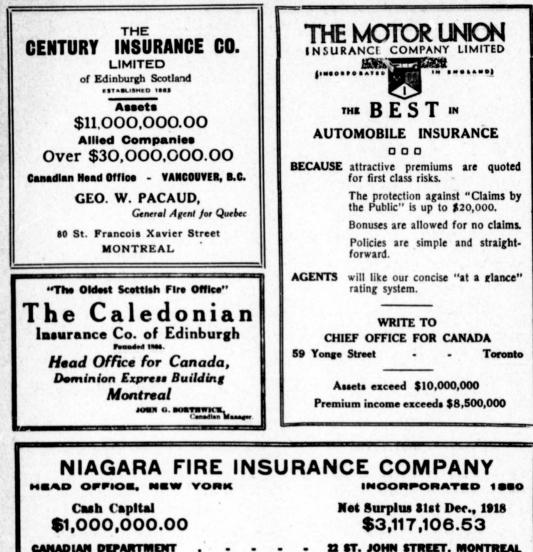
No. 1 17

"The business of insurance has passed the point where it can afford to depend so largely upon the University of Hard Knocks to train those who are to conduct it. Comparison of the very long list of companies which have retired with the short list of those in successful operation indicates that something has been wrong. One thing which was wrong was too many men trying to run a business of which they were far from being masters. Education would not have corrected this defect entirely, but it would have helped.

Even within a decade the developments in insurance have taxed the capacity of the brainiest men in the business. It was comparatively simple to conduct a fire insurance company and write limited lines in a few States: it is decidedly complex to write fire and marine, automobile and all the side lines in fortyeight States and in foreign countries, to deal with trust lines, traction lines, cotton, chemical plants, oil and a hundred other special hazards, to operate under forty-nine systems of laws and through a dozen organizations. To know the insurance business now means much more than it did even a few years ago."

THE CHRONICLE

Montreal, January 2, 1920



W. B. FINDLAT, Manager

22 ST. JOHN STREET, MONTREAL AGENTS BEQUIBED



Fire at Chambly Canton, P.Q.—By the fire which occurred on Dec. 25th on the premises of Messrs. Bennett, Limited (Wood Works), the following companies are interested: North Brit. & Mer., \$15.000; Union of Canton, \$3.200; Caledonian, \$5,000; Commercial Union, \$5,000; Royal Exchange \$5,000; Alliance, \$2,500; Western, \$2,500; Employers, \$2,500; Norwich Union, \$2,500; Atlas, \$5,500; Guardian, \$30,600; Niagara, \$10,000, North America, \$5,500; Home, \$5,000; Sun, \$5,000; Prov., Washington, \$2,500; Northern, \$10,000; Globe & Rutgers, \$2,500; British America, \$2,500; Continental, \$2,700; total \$125,000. Loss total.

Fire at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.—On Dec. 15th a fire destroyed the wholesale fruit and grocery store of the Gamble Robinson Co. Loss about \$15,000.

Fire at Woodville, Ont.—On Dec. 17th, a fire occurred. Loss about \$12,000. Small amount of insurance carried.

Fire at Newcastle, N.B.—On Dec. 26th, P. J. McEvoys Crockery Store was damaged. Loss about \$10,000.

**Fire at Port Arthur, Ont.**—On De c. 26th, a fire caused damage to the woodwork of the big steel tug "A. Comnell, to the extent of about \$20,000 while the boat was in dock.

Fire at Halifax.—On Dec. 24th, a fire destroyed the warehouses of the Canadian Oil Co. at Fairview on the outskirts of the town. Loss of contents, etc., about \$60,000.

Fire at Beamsville, Ont.—On Dec. 29th, a fire broke out in the Hamilton Grimsby and Beamsville Electric Company's Car barns, which were destroyed, together with thirty passenger cars. Loss about \$65,000. Cause stated to be overheated stove.

**Fire at Hostler, B.C.**—On Dec. 28th a fire destroyed six buildings including Bossally's Store, Royal Hotel and the Post Office. Loss about \$7,500.

Fire at Athens, Ont.—On Dec. 29th, a fire destroyed three frame buildings. Loss about \$5,000, only partly covered.

Fire at Quebec.—By the fire which occurred on Dec. 26th, in the Fur Factory of Maranda & Labrecque, caused by a spark from an electric motor, the following companies are interested, on Maranda & Labrecque Building, Employers, \$6,500; North America, \$2,500; Mount Royal, \$7,000; National of Paris; \$3,000, Springfield, \$6,000; Queensland, \$5,000: British Und., \$5,000: Equitable, \$2,500; Union of Paris, \$2,500; Royal; \$5,000. Total \$45,000. Loss about \$20,000. **On Stock of Paquet Company** in Building Prov. Washington, \$7,000; North America, \$5,000; Imperial Und., \$4,000; Globe & Rutgers, \$1,500; Employers, \$2,500; Quebec, \$2,500; Exchange Und., \$1,000; Westchester, \$2,500; St. Paul, \$2,500; Continental, \$5,000; Great America., \$5,000; Niagara, \$5,000; Western, \$2,500; Queensland, \$5,000; General of Perth, \$7,500; Dominion, \$2,500; Nat. Ben Franklin, \$2,500; Phenix of Paris, \$2,500. Total \$81,000. Loss nearly total.

In addition to above: Holt Renfrew have stock insured for \$35,000; loss on which is estimated at \$15,000. List of companies interested not yet received.

Fire at Edmonton, Alta. –On Dec. 22nd, two grain elevators of the Western Canada Flour Mills Co. were destroyed. Loss about \$100,000.

Fire at Fredericton, N.B.—On Dec 17th, the Kirk Apartments were destroyed . Loss about \$15,000. Small amount of insurance carried.

Fire at Halifax, N.S.—On Dec. 21st, the warehouse of Maritime Telephone & Telegraph Co. was damaged. Loss about \$100,000. Insurance \$95,000.

Fire at St. John, N.B.—On Dec. 21st, the Gem Theatre was destroyed. Loss about \$6,500.

Fire at Grand Prairie, Alta.—On Dec. 15th Salmonds Hotel was destroyed. Loss about \$7,500, partly covered.

**Fire at St. Catharines, Ont.**—On Dec. 22nd, a fire destroyed the factory of the Dominion Electric Co. Loss about \$12,000. Partly covered.

Fire at St. John, N.B.—On Dec. 18th, a fire damaged a block of wooden buildings on Mill Street. Loss about \$30,000.

Fire at Toronto.—On Dec. 21st, a garage at the rear of 1585 Yonge was damaged with three cars. Loss about \$35,000, fully covered. Cause, gasoline explosion.

Fire at Yarmouth, N.S.—On Dec. 20th a fire damaged the Post Office, Custom House and other public buildings. Loss about \$4,000.

Fire at Edmonton, Alta.—On Dec. 21st, a fire destroyed All Saints Cathedral. Loss about \$60,000; insurance \$20,000.

**Fire at Chicoutimi, P.Q.**—On Dec. 21st a fire destroyed three large business blocks, twenty-two private dwellings therein comprised, and about ten stores, in the centre of the city. Loss about \$75,000. We understand the amount of insurance is very small.

(Continued on page 21)

THE CHRONICLE

Montreal, January 2, 1920







Head Office for Canada and Newfoundland F. H. RUSSELL, General Manager

TOBONTO

THE ST. PAUL FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY ASSETS OVER \$13,000,000 INCORPORATED 186 REPRESENTED IN TORONTO BY

MCADAM, SHERRITT & COMPANY General Agen

Excelsior Life Building

36 Terente Street

**BRITISH TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED** Head Office for Canada: TORONTO

Head Offer: HONG KONG

FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE

LOSSES PAID SINCE OBGANIZATION OVER \$50,000,000

JOHNSON-JENNINGS, Inc., General Agenta, MONTREAL

Manager for Canada, C. R. DRATTON



HEAD OFFICE: MONTREAL 90 ST. JAMES ST.

The Strathcona was founded in 1908. and has earned a reputation for solid strength, fair dealing and reasonable rates.

"To Such Ideals There Is An Assured Fatare."

Fire at Gaspe, P.Q.—On Dec. 21st, the wellknown Morin Hotel was destroyed, with contents. Loss about \$15,000, with \$2,000 insurance.

Fire at Quebec.—On Dec. 25th one of the buildings of the Quebec Abbatoir Co. was destroyed. Loss about \$2,000, fully covered.

**Fire at Moncton, N.B.**—On Dec. 25th a fire destroyed the Moncton Tramway Electric and Gas Company's Car Barn, and Machine Shop, one street car and sweeper were destroyed. Loss about \$30,000 fully insured. The loss of one life occurred.

Fire at Moncton, N.B.—Two fires quickly followed each other on the 18th inst. The old Winter's Homestead. Loss about \$6,000, and the Moncton Children's Home. Loss about \$5,000.

Fire at Adamsville, P.Q.—On Dec. 19th the Wilkins Hub and Mop Handle Factory was destroyed Loss about \$4,000; no insurance.

## AUTOMOBILE POLICY COVERAGE.

Q. What is meant by the term Automobile Policy? A. The automobile policy is a public liability policy which excludes accidents to the policyholder, and to his employees. It provides insurance against loss by reason of the legal liability of the named assured to others for bodily injuries accidentally sustained, including death at any time resulting therefrom, on account of an accident due to the ownership, maintenance or use of any automobile described in the policy, provided such accident occurs during the policy period and within the limits of the United States of America and Canada, subject to certain exclusions.

Q. What exclusions?

A. First.—The policy will not cover if the accident occurs while the automobile is being operated in any race or speed contest. Second—While being operated by any one under the age of 16 years or under the age limit fixed by law. Third—Liability assumed by the assured to pay workmen's compensation. Fourth —Liability in respect to any accident happening while the automobile is being used for towing or prepelling another vehicle.

Q. What does the automobile policy require of the assured ?

A. It requires that when an accident occurs he shall give the insurance company immediate notice and full particulars.

Q. What is meant by "immediate notice" and "full particulars"?

A. "Immediate notice" means as soon as is reasonably possible following an accident, and the term "full particulars" means the time, place and causes of the accident, and, if possible, the apparent result and the names of the witnesses. Q. How will the assured know that he is expected to do these things?

A. The agent who sells the policy should tell him. It is a part of good service to do so. It may, however, be learned by reading the policy.

*Q*. What does the company do when it receives a report of an accident?

A. Its claim department refers to the office copy of the policy to see what elements of coverage are provided and then proceeds to have an investigation made by an expert in such matters.

Q. What do you mean by elements of coverage?

A. There are three elements in complete coverage as written by casualty companies: *First*—Liability coverage, meaning the coverage for injury to persons. *Second*—Property damage coverage. *Third*—Collision coverage. The liability coverage is provided by the policy itself, and property damage and collision coverage are added by endorsements when these elements of coverage are also wanted by the assured. In addition to these three elements of coverage, fire insurance companies write fire and theft coverage, and the fire insurance companies sometimes write the collision and property damage coverage.

Q. Do you mean that property damage and collision endorsements are not attached to all automobile policies when issued ?

A. Precisely so. Some automobile owners, for one reason or another, do not purchase property damage and collision coverage when they purchase liability coverage, but it is a mistake not to have complete coverage.

*Q.* What does the company do after investigating an accident reported to it under one of its policies ?

A. If there is an apparent legal liability upon the part of the assured, or if a claim is made by the injured person, or by the person whose property has been damaged (if a property damage endorsement is attached to the policy), the company undertakes to adjust and settle the claim, or, if unable to effect a settlement with the claimant, the company is obligated under its policy to defend the assured in court at its own expense and through its own attorney, and if a verdict and judgment are rendered against the assured on account of the accident, the company is obligated to pay, up to the limits insured in its policy.

LIMITS OF POLICY

Q. What are these limits?

A. Usually \$5,000 as respects injury sustained by one person and \$10,000 as respects injuries sustained by more than one person in one accident.

Q. Suppose several accidents happen in succession, how about the limits then ?

A. These limits will apply as respects each such accident.

Q. May larger limits be obtained ?

A. Yes; by paying an additional premium for the additional protection.

(Continued on page 22.)

Q. Where are the rates to be found for higher limits?

A. In the automobile manual.

Q. Is it possible to have higher damages than \$5,000 and \$10,000?

A. Yes, it certainly is, for verdicts for very much larger amounts are often rendered. Verdicts running from \$25,000 to \$45,000 are not uncommon.

Q. What is meant by property damage coverage?

A. Property damage coverage is effected by attaching to the policy an endorsement which provides indemnity for the assured against loss by reason of his legal liability for injury to or destruction of any property (excluding, however, property of the assured or in charge of the assured or of any of his employees or carried in or upon the automobile of the assured) on account of any accidents due to the ownership, maintenance or use of any automobile described in the policy itself to which the automobile property damage endorsement is attached, and subject to the same exclusions which apply to the policy itself.

Q. In adjusting and settling a property damage claim suppose the claimant insists upon being paid for the loss of use of the damaged property while it is being repaired. Does the insurance cover this item?

A. No; unless loss of use coverage is provided. This calls for an additional 10 per cent. in premium rate. It is advisable to cover loss of use, however, in every case.

Q. Suppose the company and the claimant cannot agree upon the amount of property damage. What then ?

A. In that case, if the claimant brings a suit agaist the assured for his property damage claim, the company will defend as in the case of a personal injury claim under the policy itself and will pay any verdict and judgment rendered against the assured up to the limit named in the property damage endorsement.

Q. What limit is usually applied to the property damage endorsement?

A. \$1,000 as to any one accident.

Q. May an automobile owner obtain property damage coverage for more than \$1,000?

A. Yes.

Q. May damage in excess of \$1,000 be done to property by an ordinary automobile?

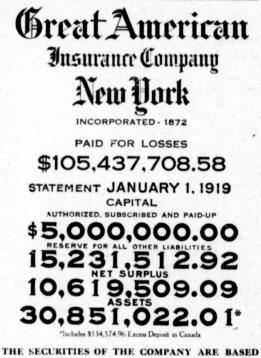
A. Yes; an automobile may skid, for instance, and, striking a fire plug with sufficient force, break it and cause the flooding of a store, doing damage amounting to many thousands of dollars.

Q. What is meant by collision insurance?

A. Collision insurance covers against actual loss or damage to the insured automobile if sustained during the period of the policy and within the limits of the United States of America and Canada, and being caused solely by accidental collision with another object, excluding loss or damage caused directly or indirectly by fire or occurring while the automobile is being operated in any race or speed contest or while operated by any person under the age of 16 years, or under the age limit fixed by law.

Q. How many kinds of collision coverage are written? A. Three: Non-deductible, \$25.00 deductible, and \$100.00 deductible collision average.

Q. What do you mean by deductible coverage ? A. In a \$25.00 deductible collision coverage for instance, there must be deducted from the amount of each claim or loss when determined, \$25.00, which amount the assured must bear, and the company becomes liable for any amount in excess thereof, not exceeding the intrinsic value of the insured car at the time of the collision.



UPON ACTUAL VALUES ON DECEMBER 31st, 1918

United States Government Liberty Loan bonds owned by the Company exceed its entire capital stock of \$5,000,000 – a striking indication of true patriotism

## Home Office, One Liberty Street New York City

Agencies Throughout the United States and Canada ESINHART & EVANS, Agents 39 Storrament Street Montreal, Quebec WILLIAM ROBINS, Superintendent of Agencies Dominion Bank Building, Toronto, Outario

# NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the BRITISH GENE-RAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED of London England, has been granted Dominion License No. 829, dated 5th Dec., 1919, to transact in Canada the business of FIRE INSURANCE.