# The Chronicle

# Banking. Insurance and Finance

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

# A XXXX. No. 49. 20 MONTREAL, MAY 21st, 1920

Single Copy 10c Annual Subscription \$3.00

# THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION

The week has not been notable for new developments, business circles in Canada having been generally in a waiting mood pending the production of the new Budget, which is referred to below. Outside this, one factor is apparently making headway, "Sales" of various kinds and in various guises by the retail trade are becoming exceedingly numerous, and in the west, it is said that they are even more general than they have become in Eastern Canada. This development is interesting as a matter of trade tactics, but as a serious contribution to the problem of bringing down prices, it is, of course, merely futile. In this connection, it mey indeed do more harm than good, since the possibility of securing something for a little less then current market values, has notoriously the effect of causing people to buy more than they actually need for present consumption, and this the already short supply of goods available for the general body of consumers is still further restricted. The development may, however have a good effect indirectly in stimulating the movement of stocks of merchandise, which would otherwise be inactive, thus loosening credit. The strained credit situation in the United States is considered to have been in part at least brought almost by the breakdown of the transportation system of the country, and strong efforts are now being made to put an end to what is practically a freight "blockade."

During the week, new financing of the Canadian Government railways has been completed in New York, through the issue in that market of 7 per cent. equipment gold certificates to an amount of \$15,000,000. The rate of interest undoubtedly appears high at first glance, but as a matter of fact, the borrower is merely paying the market price for accommodation, and the premium on New York funds will reduce the actual cost of the loan considerably. Short term Bonds and notes of the highest grade are now selling in New York on a 7 to 8 per cont. basis. It is doubtful whether the new borrow ing will have any pronounced effect upon the New Yerk Exchange. The amount of the borrowing is marely a drop in the bucket, so far as exchange is corned.

The point will no doubt be raised in connection

with this loan as to why the financing should not have been done in Canada. We believe that under present conditions any large borrowing by the Government, or by any one else for the matter of that, in Canada are frankly impossible.. It was reported to us the other day that some of the Bond houses are in fact reducing their staffs. Without any abstruse arguments regarding tight money or credit *inflation*, that fact is an excellent indication of the real condition of affairs in the bond market locally at the present time.

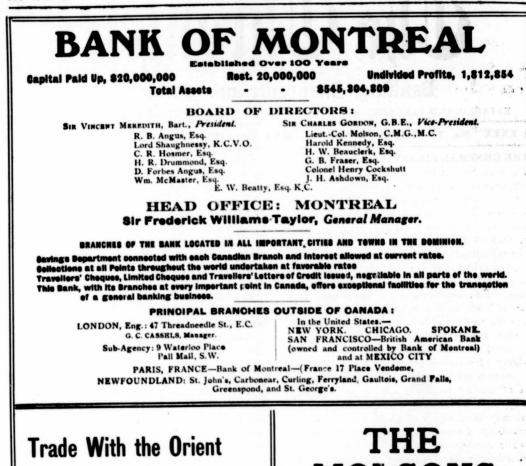
On the other hand, the Stock Exchange continue to bear up very well under the money strain. Business, outside a few of the favored paper stocks, is not large, and in those, of course, it is not a tenth of what it might be were money in fair supply. But even in stocks which are most inactive, prices are on the whole well maintained in the face of adverse conditions, and there is not the slightest doubt that with an easing of the money situation, the whole market list would show a considerable advance. While hopes that money will become in more amply supply are still held, it yet remains to be seen how far those hopes will be justified during the coming summer months.

It is noted that while in some lines of merchandise hesitancy is reported, in others prices are still going ahead. Three dollar wheat is now regarded as a probability, and in some lines of textiles, prices continue markedly on the upward grade. To the general public, this fact may be puzzling, but it is not unique; a decline in prices is not likely to affect all commodities equally or at the same time. Financial observers in New York are now calling attention to what took place in the "credit crisis" of 1903, the last period which presents any close parallel to the money market of the present day. At that time, the price of iron and steel declined 35 per cent. within 12 months; other commodities of manufacture, 10 to 20 per cent. Employment of labour was undoubtedly much reduced. But the reduction in cost of necessaries was far from uniform. The wheat crop and the cotton crop both ran short, with the result that textile goods and flour actually rise in price. After a year of recitious liquidation and dull trade, the forward movement v s resumed, even speculation taking an active

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THE CHRONICLE

MONTREAL, MAY 21, 1920



With correspondents of the highest standing in China, Japan, India and other countries of the Orient, and branches in all the principal ports on the Pacific coast of North America, namely :—

> Prince Rupert Portland, Ore. Victoria Seattle Vanco¬ver San Francisco

this Bank is excellently equipped to serve the interest of Canada's growing trade with the Orient.

# The Canadian Bank of Commerce

Capital Paid Up\$15,000,000 Reserve Fund \$15,000,000

# THE MOLSONS BANK

Incorporated in 1855 CAPITAL AND RESERVE \$9,000,000 Over 120 Branches

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Our Managers will gladly discuss your banking requirements with you.

HEAD OFFICE: - MONTREAL E. C. PRATT General Manager THE CHRONICLE

# The Chronicle Banking, Insurance and Sinance

Established 1881. Published Every Friday F. WILSON-SMITH, Proprietor and Managing Editor OFFICE : 406-408 Lake of the Woods Building,

10 St. John Street, Montreal.

Annual Subscription \$3.00 Single Copy, 10 cents

# MONTREAL, FRIDAY, MAY 21st, 1920

# THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION (Continued from front Page)

hand again. The forward movement came almost from two factors in the situation—very large bank reserves and very easy money, and as a result of the drastic liquidation, together with such abundance of money on the European markets that they loaned to American borrowers whatever was asked for. One of the circumstances may be repeated in the sequel to the resent readjustment, but the other can hardly recur.

Possibly the most qualifying fact about the new Budget is its indication that the era of heavy borrowing, as a result of the war has come to an end, and that henceforth, Canada is to pay its own way. Borrowing is a simple way of getting out of financial difficulties, and it is usually popular with the unthinking, since it has the effect of creating prosperity for the time being. But in national as in individual finance, the paying of ones own way is the only guarantee of eventual financial soundness, laborious as the process may be. What ever differences of opinion there may be in regard to the incidence and results of specific taxation proposals, it will, we think, be generally agreed that Sir Henry Drayton has met the problems with which he was faced, with considerable courage. In drawing up the national balance sheet, he has excluded all doubtful assets, and in his proposals for new revenue, he has ranged much further a field than any of his predecessors. The sentiment of the business community generally is met by the considerable modification of the Business Profits War Tax, making that import much lighter than in three years preceding 1920. Slight additions are made to the Income Tax on incomes over \$5,000, but the full details regarding what is proposed in this connection will apparently not be available until the separate amending bill has been brought down. A set of far reaching "luxury taxes is introduced, which may have an important effect upon particular trades. The man in the street will probably object that with prices at their

present height, neither \$50 suits nor \$10 shoes can be described as "luxuries," but in regard to many other items which come into the schedules of the new taxation, there will we imagine, be general approval of a step which may have the effect of curtailing extravagance in expenditures by profiteers and the newly-rich. A one per cent tax on turnover of manufacturers and wholesalers is an innovation in fiscal practice, urged on the Government, we believe, by some who wished a tax of this kind to supplant the Business Profits War Tax, but now adopted in such form that it is paid by the consumer. The excess taxes on liquor, playing cards and motor cars are revised stiffly upwards, and some minor new stamp taxes introduced. On the other hand, the tax on moving picture films is removed, and what is of more general importance the  $7\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. war customs duties tax are abolished. These concessions, including the revision of the Business Profits War Tax, involve taxation estimated at \$30,000,000 annually, the net return in additional revenue being thus reduced to an estimated figure of \$70,000,000.

For a few days there is bound to be a certain amount of confusion in business circles until the working of the new taxes has become systematised and is thoroughly understood by the public. New taxation, particularly direct taxation, can never be popular. But under present circumstances, stiff taxatioa is a valuable ally in the process of readjustment, and we are inclined to thing that on the whole, the present Budget marks an important forward step in the process of the adjustment of the national finances from the strained position in which they were necessarily placed as a result of the war, to a normal and healthy position.

# TRAFFIC RETURNS

Year to date April 30	Canadian Pact 1918 \$45,161,000 \$4	1010	1920	Increase 9,402,000
Week ending May 7 May 14	1918	1919	1920	Accd 000
Year to date April 30	Grand Tru	ink Railwa	1990	Increase
Week ending May 7		1010	110200	1 DOLOUND
Year to date April 30	Canadian Na	tional Rail	ways 1990	Increase
	1918	1010	1990	DCDWW

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THE CHRONICLE

MONTREAL, MAY 21, 1920



JOHNSON – JENNINGS, INC. AGENTS INSUBANCE BOOKERS ATTA DISCRATCE CO. OF RASTRORD ATTA DISCRATCE CO. OF RASTRORD TO PART A MALINE INSUBANCE CO. B GT. MACHANIST OFFICE

#### AN AMAZING APPOINTMENT

Matters of education are usually outside the scope of this journal. It is concerned with them normally only in so far as technical education with those branches, with which The Chronicle is particularly associated, is concerned, But at this time, it cannot fail to express astonishment at the extraordinary step taken by the Governors of McGill University in appointing General Currie as Principal.

That General Currie has unusual qualifications of leadersship and a marked capacity for organization, his remarkable war record shows. But are these sufficient qualifications for the headship of McGill? It seems to us that if Academic distinction is not absolutely essential, at least there is needed in this position a mind steeped in the finest culture to make its leadership worth following, and its organization the means to a high intellectual end.

Impartial observers have before now noticed the tendency of some Canadian Universities to become merely big technical schools, and the failure of McGill to make any impression, upon the intellectual life of the English-speaking portion of Montreal outside its walls, is notorious. The new regime does not hold much promise in this connection. McGill will, no doubt, be well and efficiently run in a business like manner, it will turn out so many graduates every year, more or less equipped to earn a living by a profession.

But will it give those graduates, the highest ideals of a cultured and intellectual life, and set an example to the Philistines around of that education which someone once defined as "what remains when one has forgotten everything one ever learnt"?

#### WESTERN CANADA COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION

Readers of the daily newspapers have within the past few days become aware of a propaganda initiated by the Western Canada Colonization Association, which promise results of incalculable importance to the financial interests of this country. It is a movement backed by every solid business man and every enlightened leader of public thought in the West and since its projectors came East early this month they have met with astonishing success in awakening the practical interest of leaders of industry, and finance.

The great object aimed at, is that of bringing into settlement and production 20,000,000 acres of vacant lands lying within twenty miles of existing railroads in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. The fact that these lands, for which Canada has spent hundreds of millions of dollars in providing transportation facilities, are still uncultivated is due to the fact that in the rush to buy Western lands,

large desirable tracts fell into the hands of private owners, who for one reason or another have failed to farm them, and are for the most part "absentee landlords."

The Western Canada Colonization Association proposes not merely to secure settlers and force vacant holdings into cultivation, but by advice and support educate the incoming settler in citizenship and nelp him to make the best use of his opportunity. Its aims are the reverse of those of the land-boomster since it will endeavor to secure the land for the actual wealth producer at as low a rate as possible. Its projectors are convinced that the looseness of boom methods have done great injury to the West in the past; and the go-as-you-please policy of allowing the new-comer to shift for himself is responsible for many grave economic and political problems which effect all Canada to-day.

Anyone who has looked into the matter at all, at once recognizes the economic waste involved in allowing an acreage of vast extent and easy of access for export and import, to remain idle; but the condition of private ownership makes it one with which the Government cannot deal.

So soon at the idea was promulgated at Calgary early in April it secured the support of every business man and every Board of Trade from the Great Lakes to the Rockies. Coming to the East early in May they found a ready spirit of practical cooperation in the great leaders of industry, finance and transportation. The names of a few of those who gave pledges of substantial subscriptions shows that no movement in this country has ever met with such unanimous support except the great patriotic efforts in the war. It is because this is a patriotic movement that we find among the earliest subscribers the names of such men as Brigadier General Meighen, Lord Shaughnessy, Sir Vincent Meredith, Sir Herbert Holt, James Carruthers, Sir Edmund Osler, Charles R. Hosmer, Sir John Eaton, Sir Charles Gordon, Huntley R. Drummond, Col. Grant Morden, Sir Joseph Flavelle, R. B. Angus, Sir Augustus Nanton, Patrick Burns and James H. Ashdown.

#### NEW YORK UNDERWRITERS AGENCY

Mr. Harold A. Joselin, for many years connected with the New York Underwriters Agency, as special agent for the Western Provinces, has been appointed Superintendent for Canada, with head quarters in Toronto to succeed Mr. T. D. Richardson, whose admission to membership in the firm of A. & J. H. Stoddart, New York, necessitated his removal to that city. Mr. Joselin is a most popular insurance man, with a most successful record, during his connection with the firm, who now recognize his services by this well earned promotion to a most important position.

THE CHRONICLE



### ATLAS ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

The Atlas Assurance Company, one of the best known insurance Companies in the world, is also one of the oldest, and affords a financial equipment in keeping with the completion of 111 years of carefully directed activity. An addendum to its annual report and accounts shows the annual income enjoyed, and the funds possessed at five accessions, including those relating to the year (1919) under review, as follows :—

The Company commenced business in the Reign of George III., and the following figures show its record :---

At the Accession of	Income	Funds +
King George	387,065	\$ 800,605
King William IV	157,115	3,038,380
Queen Victoria	789,865	4,575,410
King Edward VII	3,500,670	11,185,405
King George V	6,846,845	$15,\!186,\!090$
and at 31st December, 1919	11,385,630	26,027,435

In addition the Company has a Subscribed Capital of \$11,000,000 (of which \$1,320,000 is paid up).

The experience of the fire department for 1919 shows net premiums of \$9,550,795, as compared with \$8,203,030 in 4918, indicating a substantial growth of \$1,347,765. This extensive expansion, is accompanied by a loss ratio of 41.23 per cent., as compared with 43.72 per cent. in the preceding year, which latter was recorded as being the most favourable since the "Atlas" was founded, but now excelled by the results of the year 1919. The reserve for unexpired risks was increased to \$3,820,-320. There is also an additional reserve of \$5,679,-After charging commission expenses and 680. Foreign State and Municipal Taxes, and adding \$539,105, being 40 per cent. of the increase in premium income, to the Reserve for unexpired risks, the fire account shows a profit of \$1,560,935 to which might be added the sum of \$380,430, received for interest in this department making a total of \$1,941,365 net profit from the fire business. Such results reflect great credit to the management of the Company. It might be noted that the fire branch continues to be by far the largest of the Company's departments.

The fire funds have increased from \$8,500,000 to \$9,500,000. This most ample security for the policyholders of the Atlas is altogether apart from the large capital subscribed ot \$11,000,000 of which \$1,320,000 is paid up as above.

While the Atlas confines its operations in Canada to fire insurance, 't transacts an extensive business in other branches of insurance in various parts of the world including Life, Casualty and Employers' Liability insurance. Its total assets as at 31st

December 1919 amounted to \$32,892,650 as compared with \$31,200,425 in 1918, a growth of \$1,692,-225.

The Company has been transacting a fire business in Canada for the past 33 years under the management of Mr. M. C. Hinshaw. The high esteem in which the Atlas is justly held by its Canadian policyholders is commensurate with its fine financial standing and honourable and liberal service to numerous clients throughout the Dominion. Last year net fire premiums received in Canada amounted to \$606,679, compared with \$560,056 in the preceding year. The loss ratio in 1919 figured at 48.43 per cent. compared with 52,81 in 1918.

# DALE & COMPANY, LIMITED HONOR ROLL

An interesting ceremony took place in the offices of Dale & Co. Limited on Friday the 7th of May, when the Honor Roll Memorial Tablet, perpetuating the memory of the members of the staff who served in His Majesty's Forces Overseas, was unveiled and dedicated by Canon Almond, one time Senior Chaplain of the Canadian Forces in France.

On the Roll appeared the names of twenty-four members of the staff, five of whom were killed in action. Of the remainder, all, with one exception, have returned to the firm, which not only held their positions open for them but gave them substantial support throughout the war.

The following members of the staff received decorations :--

Major G. A. Medcalfe, Military Cross; Capt. P. R. Law, Military Cross; Signaler S. S. McNaughton, Military Medal; Sergeant Robert Key, Russian Eagle 2nd Class.

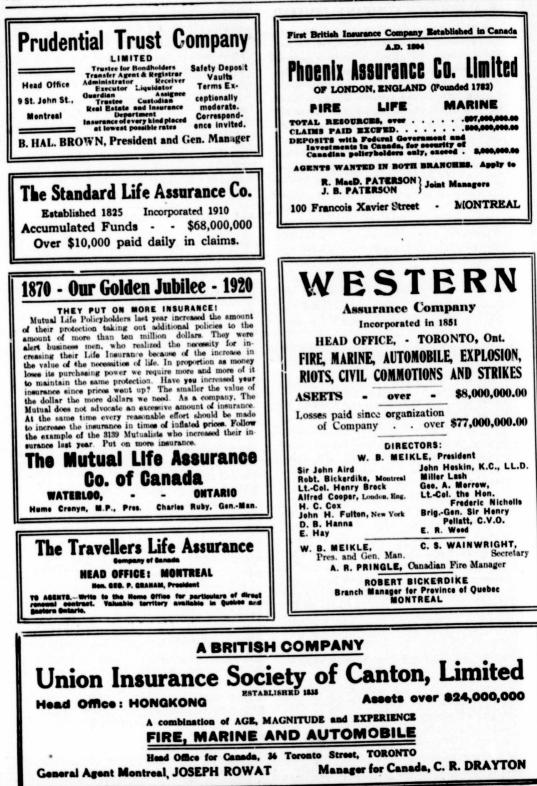
The President, Mr. R. J. Dale, introduced Canon Almond to the members of the staff who were assembled for the occasion, and after the unveilling Canon Almond gave a short address which he concluded by shaking hands with all those men who had returned from Overseas.

#### PERSONALS

Mr. Arthur E. Wall for many years manager for Australasia of the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, spent a few days in Montreal last week. Some twenty years has elapsed since his previous visit to this city, and although prepared to see many changes after so many years, he expressed himself as being much impressed with the great development that transformed the city during the past twenty years. We understand Mr. Wall is en route to the Head Office of his Company in London, Eng.

Mr. H. C. Wright, assistant to the manager of the London Guarantee & Accident was in Montreal this week on a business trip.

THE CHRONICLE



THE CHRONICLE

No. 20 563

#### Atlas Assurance Company Limited OF LONDON, ENGLAND ESTABLISHED 180 Extracts from the Report for the Year ending 31st December, 1919 FIRE DEPARTMENT THE NET PREMIUMS were \$9,550,735 and the LOSSES \$3,983,360. The underwriting profit of the account after increasing the reserve for unexpired risks by \$339,105 amounts to \$1,500,935, which has been trasferred to Profit and Loss Account. FIRE INSURANCE ACCOUNT Claims under policies paid and out-\$3,937,930 Amount of Fire Insurance Fund at the beginning of the year :--Reserve for unexpired risks, being - 3.983.360 40% of premium income for 1.974,465 Commission..... Expenses of management ...... State and Municipal Taxes (Foreign)...... . .... .... the year 1918..... \$3,281,215 1,251,190 Additional reserve..... 5,218,785 241,740 Transfers to Profit and Loss Account, viz :-9,550,795 Premiums. Profit.....\$1,500,935 Interest, dividends, and rents. . . 408,115 Less income tax thereon ..... 27.685 1,941,365 Amount of Fire Insurance at the 380,430 end of the year: Transfer from Profit and Loss Account.... 4960.895 Reserve for unexpired risks, being 40% of premium income for the 9,500,000 \$18,892,120 \$18,892,120 BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1919 ASSETS. LIABILITIES Mortgages on property within the U.K. ...\$ 1,30,640 Mortgages on property out of the U.K. ... 152,500 Capital Subscribed :-\$11,000,000 in 230,000 ..\$ 1,320,000 Loans on parochial and other public rates... Life interests 631.560008,000 465.080 "Reversions... "Co's policies within their sur-13,389,185 .. 4,500 14 714.060 575.915 Fire Insurance Fund. Employers' Liability, Accident and General 9,500,000 Policies in other Offices..... 5,000 " Personal Security. " Company's Policies coupled with 20,000 661,170 Insurance Funds. Sinking Fund and Capital Redemption In-507.475 210,900 surance Fund..... 111,620 **Contingency** Fund 5% National War Bonds. . .. Provision for completion of Dividend for the 1,960,390 year (1919) payable 30th April, 1920.... 4,685 495.000 " Security of Rents .. .. .. .. 648.925 Investments :--Deposits with the High Court, viz:-London County Council 3 per cent. stock 68,335 27.812,515 8,051,960 British Government securities. Municipal and county securities, U.K. Indian and Colonial Govern't securities Claims Admitted or in imated but not paid :---111.475 175,595 Life Assurance..... 2,516,885 1.079,435 Fire Insurance. provincial securities ... municipal securities ... 455,540 2,387,820 Due to other Offices for reinsurance ..... 611,050 Sundry unclaimed Dividends and Debenture 2,538,170 8.525 Foreign Government Securities. . . . . . provincial securities. Stock Interest ... 335.020 Catstanding commission and other accounts 784,065 689,320 municipal securities. . . . 19,695 Bills Payable ... Railway and other debenture and deben-Loan from the Company's Bankers against 3,654,210 ture stocks-Home and Foreign ..... 625.000 Security ..... Railway and other preference and guar. 766,665 364,635 Stocks & shares (other than railway stocks) 342,250 52,480 1,594,300 27,795 Life interests ..... 2,590 Reversione..... 27,265,965 Branch and Agents' balances. . . . . . 3,147,670 Due by other Offices for reinsurances ... 400.150 519.445 commissions and other accounts Outstanding premiums ... (\$5 taken as equivalent of £1 stg.) 257.090 interest, dividends, and rents... Interests, divs. and rents accrued but not 9.425 241.800 20.870 464.860 565,375 In hand and on current account ... \$32.892,650 \$32.892.650



#### EAGLE STAR & BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE CO. LTD.

The annual statement of the Eagle Star & British Dominions Insurance Company Limited for 1919, denoted most satisfactory progress in every department in the first place the dividend paid for the year is 30 per cent., free of income tax, that is on the ordinary shares. In addition to this, a devidend of 6 per cent. is paid on the preference shares, and a dividend of 10 per cent. on the preferred ordinary shares.

The great financial strength of the Eagle Star and British Dominions is represented by the posses sion of assets totalling the huge amount of \$93,-260,081 as at 31st December 1919, indicating a growth of approximately \$12,000,000 during the year.

Turning to the accounts, we find that the Marine funds increased last year to \$5,364,753, a growth of nearly \$500,000. The fire and general insurance funds stand at \$3,510,264 a growth of over \$750,-000. Life funds as per balance sheet total \$68,-822,643, indicating a substantial increase as compared with 1918.

The net premiums, fire and general, totalled \$6,083,440, against \$4,546,205 in 1918 (\$5 taken as equivalent to £1 stg.), accompanying this large expansion was a loss ratio of 45.9 per cent. A substantial profit is also recorded in the Marine department.

The development disclosed in the results of the operations of the Company, constitutes a remarkable record and is characteristic of the enterprise and energy of Sir Edward Mountain. The Eagle Star & British Dominions covers a composite insurance business, that runs to a total income of over \$20,000,000. Maarine Underwriting still provides the largest premium income of all other departments. It might also be said that the Marine branch retains a special interest, in that it was this section of insurance, that the Company first made a name for itself.

The Eagle Star & British Dominions is well and favourably known throughout Canada under the management of Mr. J. H. Riddel, assisted by Mr. E. G. Johnson, with Head Office in Toronto. Mr. Riddell is also manager for Canada of the British Crown, a subsidiary company. The fire department of the Eagle Star & British Dominions, experienced most satisfactory results in Canada during 1919. Its net premiums totalling \$293,217, a growth of over \$100,000 as compared with 1918, accompanying this substantial expansion, was a remarkably satisfactory loss ratio of 35.44 per cent.

The large and influential firm of Dale & Company, Limited, Montreal, are general agents of the Company, both for the City of Montreal and Ontario in the fire department, in addition to having charge of the Marine department for Canada.

# LEWIS, APEDAILE & HANSON INC.

The British Northwestern Fire Insurance Company of Toronto have appointed the well known firm of Lewis, Apedaile & Hanson, Inc., Lewis Building, Montreal, general agents for the Province of Quebec. The British Northwestern is now controlled by the Eagle Star & British Dominions, and policyholders will be more than amply protected, inasmuch as in addition to the resources of British Northwestern, they will have the the additional security of the large resources of the Eagle Star & British Dominions whose assets exceed \$93,000,000. The firm of Lewis, Apedaile & Hanson in addition to the above Company, also represent the Palatine as City Agents for fire insurance, and the Alliance of London for Casualty insurance. The firm occupy large and commodious offices in the Lewis Building, and have good facilities enabling them to offer excellent service to clients.

# LIGHTNING ROD IS UNDERVALUED

Insurance agencies handling farm business which have not been convinced of the value of the lightning rod as protection for farm properties are few and far between, but now and then one finds them. It is not so surprising in view of the fact that general opinion in this country toward the lightning rod has been revolutonized only within the last fifteen or twenty years. But the lightning rod now occupies the same place with relation to protection of farm property as the automatic sprinkler does to municipal building protection, at least so far as its reliability is concerned.

The fire marshalls of the country are continually furnishing abundant evidence that lightning rods are first class protection for farm property against destruction by lightning.

# BE VERY CAREFUL OF YOUR HOUSE

Your old dwelling house is very valuable now. Don't forget that fact.

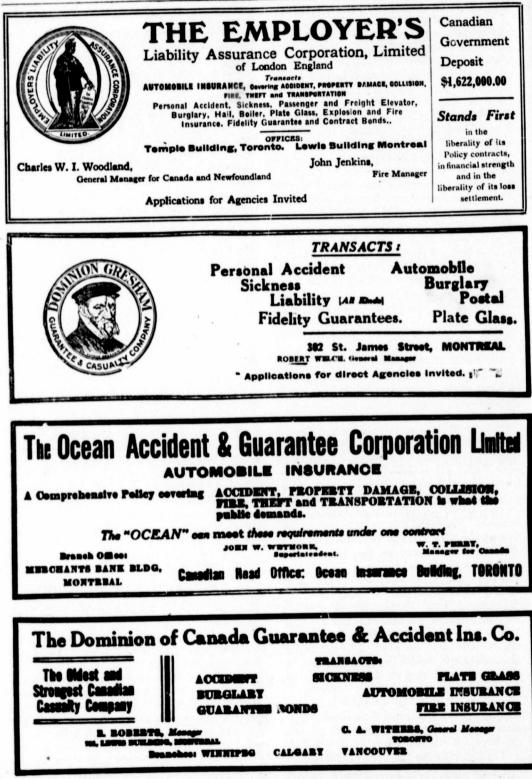
If it should burn can you afford to build another at present costs? Your new house will cost you twice what the old one did.

If you rebuild the burned home, within six years it probably will be worth only half what it will now cost.

If you can find a house to rent, prepare to pay 50 to 100 per cent. more than before the war.

You can't afford to let your old house burn even if it is well insured. Inspect your chimneys and furnaces and stoves and stove-pipes. Use safety matches. Be sure that your electric wires are properry installed. Don't allow rubbish to accumulate.

THE CHRONICLE



# EAGLE STAR & BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

# BALANCE SHEET, DECEMBER 31st, 1919

Liabiliities

CAPITAL — Authorized 1,000,000 Shares of \$14.58 each	\$14,580,000.00
Subscribed—         \$ 592,924.86           40,667         Preference Shares         8.158,355.64           559,558         Pref. Ordinary Shares         5,602,365.00           384,250         Ordinary Shares         5,602,365.00	\$14,353,645_50
Paid up         4,010,203.73           Add to be Received in Respect of New Issue         1,082,572.77	\$ 5,092,776.50 1,998,02
UNCLAIMED DIVIDENDS	.,,
INVESTMENT RESERVE FUND FIRE AND GENERAL INSURANCE FUND RESERVE FOR FIRE AND GENERAL CLAIMS, admitted or intimated 5,364,753.56 MARINE INSURANCE FUND. 35,575,48	3,510,264.03 746,228.70
MARINE INSURANCE FORD         35,575.48           Less Dividend on Preference Shares         35,575.48            Ord. Shares         81,583.50            Ord. Shares         416,023.43            533,182.41	
Life Department Funds and outstanding Lial littles, as per separate Ealance Sheet	\$ 4,831,571.15 68,822,643.00
Life Department a more and a second	\$93,260,281.40
Assets Investments at Cost	2,162,014.43 3,071,837.94
Balances due to the Company for Premiums and Agents Database, and ing Reinsurances, Returns and Creditors	$\begin{array}{c}1,181,610.38\\1,268,028.47\\78\end{array}$
Add premiums thereon	\$5,412,863.88            85,490.09            16,628.37
Policy stamps	\$93,260,081.40

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Head Office for Canada TORONTO J. H. RIDDEL, Manager E. C. G. JOHNSON, Asst. Manager

# To People the Prairies With "Hand-Picked" Settlers

# **Big Colonization Movement Under Way**

Through the foresight and determination of public-spirited Western business men, an association has been formed to grapple with a question vital to all Canada.

The Western Canada Colonization Association is a development from minor organizations, which were unable to cope with a work of such importance—that of bringing under crop twenty million acres of privately-owned land, all lying idle within twenty miles of railways in the Prairie Provinces. The settlement of this land promises great and beneficial results for the whole Dominion.

# Our Stubborn Financial Problem

An adverse exchange rate bears heavily upon Canada. The only remedy is to increase our exports to the utmost. The direct way to do this is to people millions of acres lying idle in the West. A great nume of gold lies in these fertile fields, and the time has come to work it.

# The West yearns for Development

The Prairie Provinces yearn for immigrants of the "hand-picked" class. The movement now afoot is heartily welcomed and supported. From the Rockies to the Great Lakes, prominent public and business men are devoting themselves to the furtherance of the project.

A strong representative Western Committee is at present visiting Eastern cities. Their mission is to make clear that the movement is vital to all Canada.

#### A Partnership of East and West

The East will hold a permanent partnership and beneficial interest in the movement. The policies of the Association will not be definitely shaped until the fullest co-operation of Eastern Canada has been elicited. Then a joint executive council, representative of both East and West, will become responsible for the formation of plans mutually satisfactory, and with the one aim in view—an ever-progressing and richer Canada.

Out in the West, lie idle no less than twenty million acres of arable land—all within twenty miles of existing transportation facilities! An unique importunity for colonization and increased food production, hitherto wasted, is now to be realized.

There is no time for further delay-this is a matter for prompt action-vigorous impetus has already been given to the movement by many of Canada's distinguished men, in both the East and the West.

# The Association's Founders: EASTERN CANADA WESTERN CANADA

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# The Western Canada Colonization Association

# INSURANCE SALESMANSHIP

This article is written with a view to assisting the agent in the field to increase his premium income and retain his clients good will.

It appears to the writer that there are four main points to be considered in building up a new connection or in retaining an old one and may be grouped as under, viz :--

1. Company.—Know all about your Company, its finances, stability, officials, ability and willingness to settle claims justly and promptly.

2. Policy Contracts.—It is of vital importance that the agent sshould know his policy contract from A to Z so that he is in a postiion to describe it concisely and intelligently to a possible client. Kecognize that the man you are trying to sell Personal Accident, Automobile, or Fire Insurance to is a busy man and wishes to know the nature of the insurance protection he is to have and lack of ability in explaining your contract may loss you many a good risk.

3. Service.—I am afraid this is a much abused term but if the agent would impress his clientele with the fact that he is therefor the sole purpose of giving expert insurance advice I think his clientele would not be long in recognizing it. After all when a policy is placed and the premium paid the client should not be forgotten until renewal date. There are numerous ways you can assist him and by doing this he would fall into the habit of coming to you not only for information but to place additional insurance.

4. Premium.—This is a very necessary portion of the business but it will be noticed that I have placed it last and I think that is just where it belongs. The average person seeking insurance

desires to know how much *protection* he is going to have rather than how much premium he is expected to pay. Too many agents talk premium first and other things (of greater importance) after, thereby educating the insuring public to *cheap* insurance, which is just what the name implies. If you have not already tried this system do so and you will be surprised at the results.

S. G. WRIGHT.

# CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

Fire at Otlawa.—On the 18th inst. a fire broke out in the store of A, J. Alexander, 67 Sparks St. Practically all the loss was in valuable furs detroyed, stored on the premises for safe keeping during the summer. The following Companies are interested:—National of Hartford, \$5,000; Union of Paris, \$5,000; Nova Scotia, \$2,500; General, \$3,000; New York Und., \$5,500; Union of Canton, \$11,000; Springfield, \$5,000; Rochester, \$5,000; Alliance, \$3,000, total \$45,000. Loss about 50 per cent.

Fire at Digby, N.S.—On the 14th instant, Gravel's Garage, one of the largest in Western Nova Scotia was destroyed by fire together with thirty-eight cars. Loss about \$75,000.

Fire at Levis, P.Q.—On the 16th instant a fire occurred in two storage buildings of the Canadian National Railways. Loss about \$2,000.

Fire at Picton, Ont —On the 17th instant the planing mill of Allen & Cline was destroyed by fire. Loss about \$15,000. Insurance stated to be \$2,000.

Fire at Matagami Lake, Ont.—On the 5th inst. a fire destroyed a saw mill, the property of Sam Mc-Cheney. Loss about \$7,500.

# THE ROMANS SAY: A public a good citizen is a friend to the state. spirited organization is a good citizen magnified a thousandfold. The Continental, continually offering sound indemnity to policyholders, superior service to agents and satisfaction to both, is a power for the advancement of Canadian interests, a good friend to the state. IT PAYS TO REPRESENT The Continental Insurance Company OF NEW YORK. HENRY EVANS, President. PROFITS HAIL AUTOMOBILE TORNADO FIRE CANADIAN HEAD OFFICE: 17 ST. JOHN STREET, MONTREAL. W. E. BALDWIN, Manager ٠.

THE CHRONICLE



# STOCK DIVIDENDS AND THEIR VALUE

The "melon" is unquestionably one of the strongest stimulants that can be applied to speculative markets—the very nickname shows what traders think of it. It is looked upon as a rich and juicy prize which is handed out to stockholders by the kindly and thoughtful directors of the company.

The man from Mars might have difficulty in understanding this point of view. A share of stock is just what it says—a certain share or fraction of the ownership of the company. It doesn't increase the value of the company in the least to split it up into more fractions. You are no better off to own 200 shares out of 200,000 outstanding than you were when you owned 100 out of 100,000 outstanding. You still own the same fraction of the company.

Apparently the owner of the stock should disregard the stock dividend with a lackdaisical indifference. It leaves him just where he was before. Why get excited?

After the new stock is distributed to the stockholders, there is then more stock outstanding against the same property than there was before, and even though it pays the same dividend rate it could not reasonably be expected to sell as high. There is less behind it, and under ordinary conditions the earnings per share must be smaller than for the old stock. So the price of the new stock should naturally be less than the price of the cld stock before the rights were issued.

# EFFECTS OF INCREASING COMMISSIONS

"This is only a reminder that repeatedly have officials and managers of companies told their agents that higher commissions necessarily mean more agents and logically increased competition. It seems now that the Texas agents are just awakening to the fact. Graded commissions have only been

in force in that State about two years, and almost immediately it would appear that, this higher compensation has brought hundreds of new agents into the business where 15 per cent. flat did not before attract them. Real estate men and others controlling city and outlying dwelling properties in numerous cities and towns are now being attracted by the 25 per cent. commissions paid on this class and more are yet to be heard from.

"In the city of Louisville a prominent bank and trust company, no doubt induced by the high commissions paid under the Western Union excepted city rules, has gone into the business at fire insurrance and agents are protesting. Thinking underwriters believe that this and other instances of high commissions may be an object lesson to be taken advantage of both by associations of companies and local agents."

# GASOLINE AND ITS DANGERS

"A good servant, but a horrible master," This trite saying fully describes gasoline. On account of its great volatility, some small leak or careless handling in a confined space may be productive of most disastrous results. The vapor, because of its weight, immediately falls to the floor, and may reach considerable proportions before detection. The symptoms of gasoline poisoning are similar to that of alcoholism. First, there is experienced a feeling of exhilaration, followed by giddiness. The victim soon becomes overcome and falls to the floor, where the vapor completes its deadly work. While the odor is plainly perceptive, perception rapidly decreases as one works around a leaky pipe Many accidents have occurred in this or machine. manner. Gasoline, as stated before, does not readily mix with air, and its vapor may at times have just above the floor sufficient volume to form a high explosive. This explosive can readily find a source of ignition in the back-firing of an automobile or the striking of a match, and may even be caused by a defective flash lamp. Result-ruin and possible death.



Applications for Agencies Solicited

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### A SEQUEL TO THE DRAGON EXPLOSION

An important judgment was rendered a few days ago in the Court of Appeal, Montreal, confirming the judgment of the Superior Court rendered on November 17th, 1919, condemning Curtis & Harvey Limited to pay George Boyce \$7,655 for damages the latter suffered, as a sequel to the explosion which occurred in the plant of Curtis & Harvey at Dragon, Ont., on August 18th, 1917, destroying the Company's plant.

Boyce sued for damages done to his home at the time of the explosion. He claimed that the accident was due to the fault, neglect and improvidence of the defendants. The force of the explosion was such that his house was shaken and took fire, and was destroyed, together with the contents.

Respondents contended that the accident was something over which they had no control and that there was no neglect, everything having been conducted with the utmost precaution and care.

The Superior Court held that the fire which destroyed respondent's property was caused by burning material from appelant's plant; that appellant's had failed to prove force majeure; and, further, that there was actual fault on the part of appellants in the construction and operation of its plant.

The Court of Appeal concurred in finding that the evidence was sufficient to support the decision that respondent's house was destroyed and burned by reason of the fire and consequent explosion which occurred in appellants' plant; but Mr. Justice Martin, who delivered the judgment, was not prepared to say there was fault on the part of appellants in having so many nitrators in the same building or to have the buildings containing nitrators so close together. A policy adopted by the light of experience derived from the event could not support the basis of a charge of fault previous to the event.

#### WHERE LIABILITY LAY.

His Lordship added that he would not be disposed to maintain the action under the provisions of Article 1053 of the Civil Code. The more difficult point involved in this case was the consideration and determination of appellants' liability under Article 1054. After much diversity of judicial opinion the Privy Council, in a judgment delivered on February 17, 1920, in the case of the Quebec Railway & Light, Heat and Power Company and Vendry, settled the true construction of Article 1054 of the Civil Code. They held that the exculpatory paragraph of 1054 applied to all classes of cases in the preceding paragraphs of that article, including damage done by things which a defendant had under his care. Applying the principles thus formulated as the proper interpretation of

Article 1054, Judge Martin said it was not a case of mere presumption of fault which appellant might rebut by proving affirmatively that he was guilty of no fault, but a clear liability was established and put upon him which could be annulled only by proof of inability to prevent the damage.

The appellants pleaded a fortuitous event, and they would be relieved from liability if they proved that plea, or that the damage was caused by irre-Had they established their case? sistible force. His Lordship cited the definition of a fortuitous event, said fire, unless caused by lightning, was not a fortuitous event, and, in the light of all the facts and legal obligations bearing on them in this instance, concluded that appellants had not proved their plea. They were called upon to do more than repel a mere presumption of fault. They were bound to establish that they were unable to prevent the act which caused the damage, and that it was caused by a superior force impossible to resist. Having failed to do this, they were responsible toward respondent for the damage done to his property by the thing under their care.

The judgment appealed from was therefore maintained and the appeal dismissed with costs. Davidson, Wainwright & Co. appeared for ap-

pellants; and Elliott and David for respondent.

# WANTED

By a leading Fire Insurance office in Ottawa, young man about 24 or 25, with Head Office training, and with two or three years field experience preferred. French and English necessary. A splendid opportunity for young ambitious insurance man. Address, X. Y. Z.,

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A responsible position in a fire office by a man with several years experience, both in the field and office. Thoroughly conversant with both languages.

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A. B. C.,

Care The Chronicle, Montreal.

THE CHRONICLE



# SUING MEMBERS OF AUTO RECIPROCAL

Several hundred policyholders in the Illinois Automobile Insurance Exchange of Bloomington, Ill., s reciprocal specializing in the writing of automobile business, are facing court suits for damages, based on prorated shares of their policies, as a result of a judgment obtained recently in the East St. Louis, Ill., city court, by Edward C. Zulley, an sttorney. Two judgments have already been returned for Zulley and a number of others are pending.

#### Low Rates Tempting

Automobile reciprocal exchanges have been doing an enormous business recently. They have attracted the attention of policyholders, because of low rates. Automobile owners have been tempted to place their business in reciprocals because of the comparatively small premium charge. Buyers of reciprocal insurance have given little thought to what might happen in the event of a loss, but have contented themselves with the thought that they were "protected." In this latest case, policyholders see some of the difficulties that may confront them if a claim is disputed by the institution.

# Concern Resists Payment

Mr. Zulley insured his roadster in the Illinois Automobile Insurance Exchange last year, and it was later destroyed by fire. The company declined to pay the loss, and Mr. Zulley entered suit for \$1,500 damages. Counsel for the company declared it was not a corporation, that it could not be sued as an exchange, and that judgment, therefore, could not be entered against it. The names of a number of policyholders were presented, and Mr. Zulley amended his petition to include Ike Cohen of East St. Louis, Ill., holder of a policy for \$360.

# All Policyholders Liable

The court rendered judgment for \$1,370.83 for Zulley, and in the ruling it was specified that the policyholders were liable for the total amount of damages and that the amount for each was to be prorated on the face value of his policy. This rate was established at 25 cents on each \$100 insurance carried. It could not be determined definitely just how many policyholders are effected, but computing the judgment and the prorate it is seen that suits will have to be brought against policies aggregating \$508,000. On the basis of 25 cents for each \$100 insurance carried, the first judgment was entered against Cohen of East St. Louis for 91 cents. Following this action, Mr. Zulley entered suit against Judge E. C. Kramer of East St. Louis, **bolder** of the policy for \$1,640, in which a judgment for \$4.10 was entered. At this rate it will take Mr. Zulley a long time to collect the face of his policy and probably involve expense in excess of the amount insured.

#### . Few Care to Sue

Suits of this kind are rare, for the reason that policyholders are easily discouraged at the prospect of several hundred suits and the payment of numer ous attorneys' fees. When a reciprocal exchange resists payment and offers the claimant the option of suing all of the policyholders on the books, the assured is apt to give it up as a bad jeb. It would be cheaper to simply forget about the claim, because the amount that will finally be recovered will not compensate for the time and expense involved in filing suits.

Policyholders generally do not really understand what reciprocal insurance is. They know that it is cheap, and in most cases the concerns are managed by men fairly well known in the community and enjoying good reputations. This combination seems to satisfy most policyholders. The reciprocal insurance system is not investigated. This case might well be cited by agents who are feeling the pressure of the activities of the reciprocals writing automobile business.

# Double Liability Assumed

Policyholders should know clearly what may happen to the purchaser of reciprocal insurance. Once he pays his premium, he is practically at the mercy of the attorney-in-fact. If the individual in active charge of the concern feels inclined to honor the claim, he makes payment, but if not, declines to pay the loss and offers the policyholder the alternative of suing several hundred policy holders in several hundred cities.

Most claimants will not even attempt this. On the other hand, when the automobile owner becomes a policyholder in a reciprocal exchange he takes on a bability never contemplated at the time the insurance was purchased. If a disgruntled policyholder sues and secures judgment, as in the case outlined, all policyholders may be called upon to pay their pro rata share of the claim. Thus the policyholder in a reciprocal exchange does not know when he may be called upon to defend a suit. When he purchases a policy he is associating himself with hundreds of policyholders whose character, whereabouts, and number are unknown to him.

NATIONAL UNDERWRITERS

# Association of Life Insurance Presidents

At the May meeting of the Executive Committee of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents the Confederation Life Association and The Imperial Life Assurance Company, both of Toronto, Ont., Canada, were admitted to membership by a unanimous vote.

Including these two new members, the total membership of the Association is forty-four, comprising thirty-seven United States companies and seven Canadian companies.

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