# The Chronicle

## Banking, Insurance and Finance

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

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#### **MONTREAL, AUGUST 2, 1918**

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#### THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION

The banking effect of the distribution on June 1st last of \$15,000,000 interest on Dominion Government bonds is seen in the newly-published bank statement for June. While Dominion Government balances were reduced during that month by \$31,227,797 from \$117,664,042 to \$86,436,245, deposits by the public were coincidently increased by approximately the same amount. Demand deposits at the end of June are reported as \$549,-327,078, a growth of \$13,671,347 during the month, and notice deposits as \$965,934,556, compared with \$947.757.337 at the end of May, an increase for the period of \$18,177,219. These notice deposits, it may be noted, are now \$66,000,-000 above the low point which they touched last January, when the full force of the Victory Loan flotation was felt, and are within \$42,000,000 of their highest point on record, reached last Novem-They are also \$65,000,000 ahead of their ber. total at 30th June, 1917, so that, with increases during the remaining summer and early autumn months on the same scale as last year, their total should be well over a thousand millions when the next Victory Loan campaign is undertaken. The rapid recovery of these deposits from the low level of last January is, of course, in part a result of the distribution all over the Dominion of the funds borrowed by the Government, while the \$40,000,-000, credit which was arranged in New York some time ago in connection with British purchases of Canadian butter and cheese would also have a substantial effect in this connection.

While exports moved forward freely during June, a circumstance which would tend to depress the banks' commercial loans and discounts, and to increase deposits, it is noteworthy that the banks' commercial loans are again reported in June at the new high record figure since the outbreak of war of \$897,226,012. The increase over the May total, \$2,408,899, is not large in itself, but compares with a decrease of \$5,534,807 in June, 1917, and in twelve months, these loans have been enlarged by approximiately \$58,000,000. The strong demand for bank credits for other than war purposes is also shown by a further slight rise in the banks' municipal loans, which are reported at the new high level of \$58,000,424. In the last six months, these loans have increased by \$18,000,000 as compared with a growth of \$8,300,000 in the Call loans in Canada were first half of 1917. decreased slightly during June by \$1,495,662 to \$76,970,920, and there was also a slight decrease

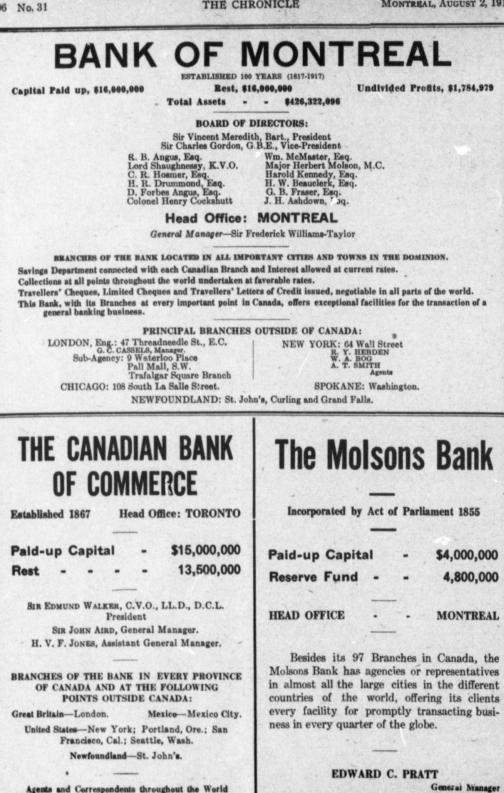
of \$2,225,403 in call loans abroad, which were reduced from \$172,259,879 to \$170,034,476. Current loans abroad in June were \$3,732,363 larger at \$103,033,289, and about \$10,000,000 larger than a year ago.

The recent circular of Mr. E. L. Pease, president of the Canadian Bankers' Association, regarding the necessity for the conservation of credit. has been followed by an announcement along the same lines by the important Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Action by banks along these lines is necessarily a delicate operation. The ramfications of demand arising from the war are so wide that credit must be freely maintained in numerous directions, while the present high level of prices imposes a responsibility, the extent of which is shown by the figures of the Canadian banks' commercial loans and discounts given above. To what extraordinary lengths, high prices effect the volume of banking credits is shown in the instance addressed by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, of a cotton mill, which ordinarily has \$1,000,000 worth of raw cotton on hand. At present, it has \$2,000,000 tied up in practically the same quantity. With the heavy calls of the coming autumn months looming ahead of them, it will doubtless be the policy of the bankers to discourage as far as possible, credits for purposes not absolutely necessary, while lending freely for purposes connected with the war, or the increased production of necessities.

An expressive fact mentioned in recent London cables is that dispite the daily sales of British war bonds, general securities are steadily appreciating. The 387 representative stocks selected by the "Bankers' Magazine" as an index to market values now show an appreciation of 90,000,000 pounds sterling within three months. This fact is not only highly significant of financial London's opinion regarding the course of the war, but is of considerable practical importance to such large holders of securities as the great British insur-ance companies. In the main, these companies have dealt with the war-time depreciation of previously-issued securities in drastic fashion, and accordingly they stand to benefit considerably by the appreciation which is bound to follow any real signs of the satisfactory termination of the struggle, and of some lessening of the demands upon money and credit.

Publication of the order-in-council covering the details of the increases in freight rates grant-(Continued on Page 809)

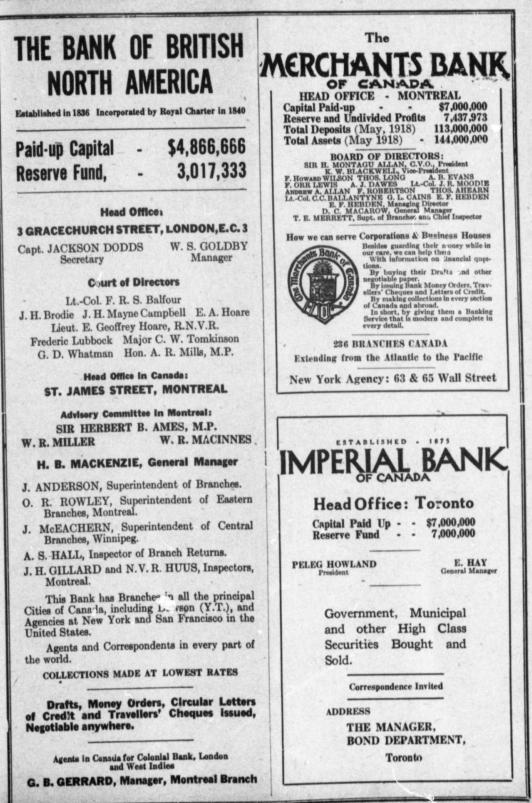
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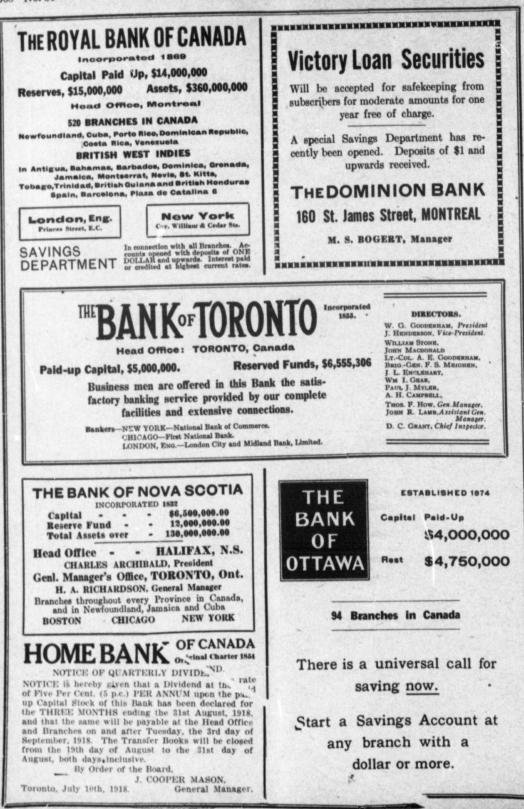
MONTREAL, AUGUST 2, 1918

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# The Chronicle Banking, Insurance and Finance

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#### MONTREAL, FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1918

#### THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION. (Continued from Front Page)

ed to the Canadian railways as from the 1st August synchronised this week with the issue of C. P. R.'s June statement, calculations from which indicate that while gross revenues expanded during the half-year to the largest total in the history of the company, net earnings were sharply reduced by the continued rise in operating expenses. While in the six months, January to June, gross revenues from C. P. R.'s railway earnings amounted to \$72,012,286, an increase of \$655,509 over the preceding maximum of this half-year, operating expenses were \$57,305,301, a growth of \$6,945,673 over the preceding maximum, and in a proportion to 79.6 per cent. to gross revenues compared with 70.6 per cent. in the corresponding period of 1917. This with slightly increased gross earnings, net earnings for the half-year are \$6,-290,464 less than in the first six months of last year. The new increase in rates which approximates 20 per cent. above the schedule recently in force, is intended to meet the larger disbursements arising out of the application of the McAdoo wages schedule, and will remain in force at least for the duration of the war. However, monthly reports to the Government from the three larger railway systems are provided for, so that should the earnings of the companies under the present order be greater than the sum required to meet increased costs and permit transportation to be properly and efficiently carried on, the appropriate reduction in the rates fixed shall be made.

#### BANK OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

A profit of approximately \$1,393,920 is disclosed in the 135th half-yearly report of the Bank of New South Wales, held at the chief banking house, Sydney, New South Wales, on May 28th last, after providing for bad and doubtful debts, fluctuations in the value of securities, etc. The usual quarterly dividend at the rate of ten per cent. absorbed \$488,108. The sum of \$375,000 was added to reserve fund, which now totals \$14,-385,000, with a paid-up capital of \$19,524,300. The total assets of this great institution now amount to over \$300,000,000. When the war broke out, the officers of the Bank of New South

Wales numbered fewer than seventeen hundred, of whom a heavy percentage were beyond military age. Of the remainder, more than seven hundred heard and obeyed the call of "King and Country," and of these seven hundred, more than one hundred have laid down their lives for the Empire of Great Britain and her Allies.

#### DURATION OF THE WAR.

There are few or no persons at the present time who, recognizing the hazardous character of attempts to prophecy, are willing to set a fixed date for the ending of the war. Those who are willing to try to approximate the date usually say, "not before the close of the year 1919." The interesting thing is, however, that, no matter what date may be tentatively set for the ending of the hostilities, it is now almost universally recognized that, regardless of the close of the campaign, war conditions which are of chief interest to the business public, will continue for a long time. It is being further noted with no little force that the conditions growing out of the war in relation to food supply and taxation are not likely to terminate for a good while after the contest ends. No one, of course, knows how soon the troops would be dismissed after their landing here, or how many would be kept in permanent service for a Even if they should be disbanded as fast time. as they get back, it would still be true that the food question would continue to be serious and would have to be dealt with on a war basis for a good while, both while they were on their way home and while they were being re-absorbed into In the same way, it is now conceded industry. by members of the Ways and Means Committee, there will be a continuing burden of taxation at a very heavy rate for a long time after the close of the war.

#### TRAFFIC RETURNS.

#### Canadian Pacific Railway.

Canadia	in Pacific R	allway.	
Year to date 1916 June 30\$61,252,000 Week ending 1916 July 7\$ 2,616,000 "142,728,000 "212,641,000	1917 \$69,575,000 1917 \$ 3,101,000 2,867,000 2,950,000	1918 \$70,213,000 1918 \$ 2,787,000 2,688,000 2,644,000	Increase \$638,000 Increase *314,000 *179,000 *306,000
Gran	d Trunk Rail	lway.	
Year to date 1916 June 30\$17,271,848 Week ending 1916 July 7\$ 1,155,029 "141,211,803 "211,140,226	1917 \$30,501,564 1917 \$ 1,297,003 1,379,293 1,358,019	1918 \$32,518,724 1918 \$ 1,500,596 1,515,442 1,496,180	Increase \$2,017,160 Increase \$ 203,593 136,149 138,161
Canadia	n Northern	Railway.	
Year to date 1916 June 30\$16,073,400 Week ending 1916 July 7\$ 855,100 "14 874,900 "21 866,900	1917 \$19,621,200 1917 \$ 902,300 935,600 872,100	1918 \$20,591,800 1918 \$ 821,700 854,100 846,300	Increase \$ 970,600 Increase \$ *80,600 *81,500 *25,800
			NOV DENA MORE

\*-Decrease.

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#### FIRE HAZARDS ON WATER FRONTS.

#### United States Attorney Gregory Calls on Government Fire Prevention Section to Note Conditions at Docks and Wharves.

United States Attorney-General T. W. Gregory has sent a letter to the Fire Prevention Section of the War Industries Board pointing out the need of establishing a more adequate system of fire protection for our waterfronts and shipping facilities. His observations are particularly applicable to Boston, the letter being as follows:

"In the course of the enforcement of the Presidential regulations barring alien enemies from the portion of the waterfront engaged in shipping, my department has had occasion to observe the fire risk conditions at the docks, wharves and other shipping facilities.

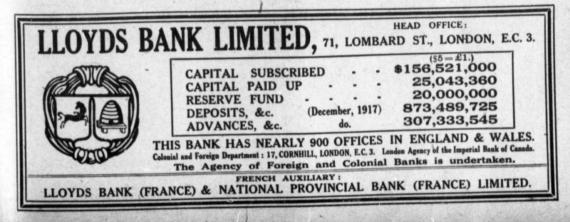
"I have received the impression that no systematic effort has been made to bring about the installation in these facilities of high standards of fire prevention methods and devices, such as ought now to be required in view of the important part which these facilities play in the prosecution of the war. The army and navy have had their attention called to the fire hazards at munition plants and to those docks, wharves and the like, which are under the immediate control of the army and navy. But in the case of those waterfront facilities which remain under the control of their private owners or operators, the only safeguards are those voluntarily assumed by the owners and operators, or imposed by local fire prevention authorities.

"In view of this situation and the obvious importance of proper protection of the shipping facilities against fire, I feel warranted in bringing the subject to your attention. And I respectfully suggest that your bureau promptly institute a comprehensive survey of the fire hazard condition of those docks, wharves and other shipping facilities which are engaged in operations related to the prosecution of the war, with a view to having all reasonable precautions provided therefor."

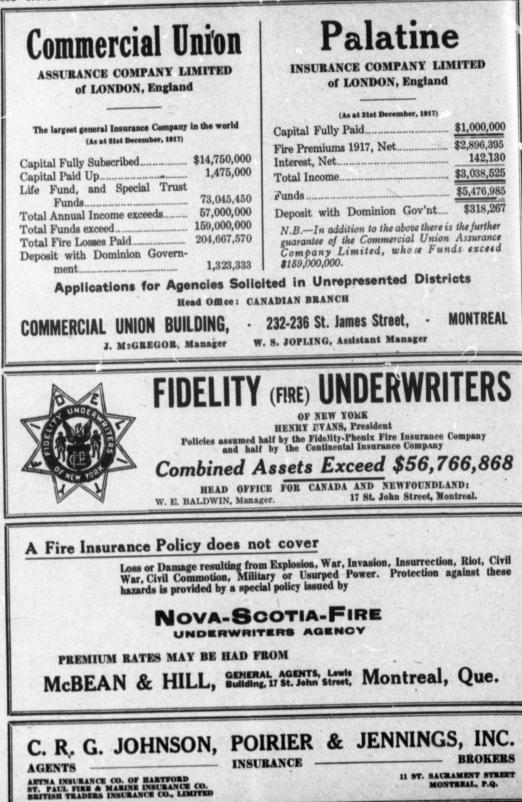
#### BRITISH FIRE LOSSES DROP IN MAY.

The cost of the principal fire losses in the United Kingdom during May is estimated by the London "Times" at £310,000, which compares with losses of £344,100 in April and £365,000 in May last year. Only fires are taken into account in which the losses amounted to £1,000 or more. Among the chief fires in May were outbreaks at a wollen mill at Batley, causing a loss of £30,000; at a gramophone works at Wandsworth, resulting in a similar loss; at a mansion at Ayr, which cost £28,000; at a dye factory at Manchester, which cost £17,000, and at bleaching works in the same city, which resulted in a loss of £13,000.





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# COMPARATIVE ABSTRACT OF THE BANK STATEMENT, JUNE, 1918

(compiled by the Chronicle).

	June 30 1918	May 31 1918		onth's vement 1918	June 30 1917		ionth's vement, 1917		Year's ovement.
Assets				1.005,959\$	77,052,527	+8	5,121,480	+	1,487,900
specie\$	75,564,627 \$	76,570,586		6,159,261	122,617,160		3,621,745	+	61,197,578
inition Notes	183,814,738	-79,870,000		4,600,000	43,450,000		3,950,000		41,020,000
a sit in Central Gold Reserves	84,470,000	21,397,905		1,786,334	19,252,331	+	1,895,251	+	3,931,908
Jotes of other Banks	23,184,239 84,568,652	82.885,716		1,682,936	77,381,179	-	13,585		7,187,473
Cheques on other Banks	5,821,486	5,779,518		41,968	6,982,421	+	111,409	-	1,160,935
Deposit to secure Note issues	0,041,400	0,111,0	1			1600			004 500
Deposits with and balances due from	4,636,978	3,839,112	+	797,866	5,031,507		626,029		394,529
other Banks in Canada	12.617,705	11,518,248		1.099,457	17,703,963		39,430		5,086,258
Due from Banks, etc., in U.K.	50,878,154	40,112,059		10,766,095	44,205,229		17,499,116		6,672,925
Due from Banks, etc., elsewhere	100,152,237	101,116,979		964,742	95,504,814	+	1,666,96	4+	4,647,423
Dom. and Prov. Securities.	100,100,000	0.2020.000					11.063,80	7	98,456,852
Can. Mun. Brit., For. & Col. Pub.	266,226,264	269,102,07	- (	2,875,806	167,769,41	1-	1,173,93		939,829
Securities. Rlwy. & other Bonds & Stocks	58,394,801	57,170,61		1,224,183	59,334,63		8,222,91		102,164,446
Total Securities held.	424.773,302	427,382 66		2,616,365	322,608,85		2,429,57		885,700
Call Loans in Canada	76, 70,920	78,466,58		1,495,662	76,085,22 159,309,13		9,383,54		10,725,343
Call Loans outside Canada	170,034,476	172,259,87		2,225,403	235,394,35		11,813,12		11,611,043
Total Call and Short Loans.	247,005,396	250,726,46	1-	3,721,065	200,001,00	1	11,010,10	1	,,
Current Loans and Discounts in	Sec. 1			000 001 0	839,355,78	2-	5,534,80	17 +	57,870,230
Canada	897,226,012	894,817,11		2,408,899	93,150,08		5,843,11		9,883,206
Current Loan's and Discounts ou! side	103,033,289	99,300,92		3,732,363	932,505,86		11,377,92		67,753,436
Total Current Loans & Discounts]	1,000,259,301	994,118,03	9+	6,141,262	002,000,00	1			
Loans to Dominion Government			÷ · · ·	2,140,523	5,423,68	8+	1,029,52	22 -	1,786,454
Loans to Provincial Governments	3,637,234	5,777,78 57,728,22		272,198	42,757,67		2,967,48	32 +	15,242,75
Loans to Cities, Towns, etc	58,000,424	52,501,58		279,304	50,450,15	0+	315,39		2,330,73
Bank Premises	52,780,885	2,319,958,40		29,877,895	2,033,622,95	0-	33,079,64	10+	316,213,34
TOTAL ASSETS.	2,349,836,297	2,010,000,40	T	20,011,000	-1				- 10 A
LIABILITIES				dista hore			13,972,1	05	38,056,00
Notes in Circulation	194,681,710	181,889,9		12,791,751	156,625,70		28,844,4		57,205,64
Due to Dominion Government	86,436,245	117,664,0		31,227,797	29,230,5		983,0		
Due to Provincial Governments	20,531,269	19,018,3	52 +	1,512,917	19,093,2	101-	000,0	77	1,400,00
Deposits in Canada, payable on					449,689,6	70+	5,840,8	23 +	99,637,40
demand	549,327,078	535,655,7	51+	13,671,347	449,000,0	"IT	010 310		00,001,10
Deposits in Canada, payable after				10 177 010	900,510,5	52 +	7,947,8	95 +	65,424,00
notico	965,934,556	947,757,3		18,177,219	1,350,200,2	22 +	13,797.7		165,061,41
Total Deposits of Public in Canada	1,515,261,634	1,483,413,0		31,848,566	177,974,1		23,708,1		32,144,75
Deposits elsewhere than in Canada	210,118,939	204,173,2		5,945,654 37,794,226	1.528,174,4		24,910,4		197,206,16
Total deposits other than Govt	1,725,380,573	1,687,58/,3 7,610,4		411,769	7,363,1		2,567,6	59 -	- 659,14
Doposits & Bal., other Can. Bks	8,022,255	4,931.2		1.262,789	5,021,6		1,340,9		1,172,33
Due to Bks & Correspts, in U.K	6,193,978	25,455,3		5,399,004	19,322,4		2,798,7		- 1,531,88
Due to Banks & Correspts. e sewhere.	30,854,313	2,070,543,7		30,923,626	1,790,434,3		32,525,3	154 -	- 311,032,9
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,101,467,350	2,010,010,1		00,020,020					
0	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	and the second			CARL NO.		Street,		
CAPITAL, ETC.	111,781,331	111,735.0	15 +	45,716	111,643,1			080 -	
Capital paid up	114,344,068	114,333,5		10,550	113,494,1			500 -	
Rost		7,967.8		45,730	7,726,2			159 -	
Loans to Directors & their Firms Greatest Circulation in Month		189,748,4		5,387,107	157,886,9	138 +	- 6,472,	1091-	- 37,248,5

#### SELBY P. WOOD SAILS HOME.

After making a brief visit to the United States, accompanied by his wife and two children, Selby P. Wood, managing director of the Australian Provincial Assurance Association, sailed for his home at Sydney, N. S. W., last week. Mr. Wood visited this country for the purpose of looking over the field, with a view to entering his company in one or more States and also in Canada. He found, however, that the legal restrictions were so many and varied that it would not be worth while to enter the Australian Provincial, as a number of years would elapse before the business could be placed on a paying basis. The association is now in its seventh year of existence and is doing remarkably well in Australia and New Zealand. Mr. Wood may possibly plant the association in Great Britain before long, but the United States and Canada are now out of the reck-

oning, as far as he is concerned.—The Spectator, New York.

Had Mr. Selby P. Wood, been a constant reader of The Chronicle, the Australian Provincial Assurance Association would probably have a larger cash balance, inasmuch as a recent reference, (which appeared in our columns) to what The Chronicle considered a very unwise proposition, might have deterred Mr. Wood, from taking such a very expensive trip on behalf of his company.

#### AWARDED MILITARY CROSS.

According to cable advice received in Montreal recently, Captain C. G. Burton Thompson, Royal Canadian Regiment, has been awarded the Military Cross, for bravery at the front. Captain Thompson is one of three sons of Mr. J. Gardner Thompson (Canadian Manager of the Liverpool & London Globe Insurance Company) serving the Empire and her Allies.



#### THE GROWTH OF HAIL INSURANCE.

The attached table of the hail insurance experience in Canada of Dominion licensed companies during the last two years brings out clearly two points, the rapid growth of the business and its extraordinary fluctuations. Regarding its growth, net premium income reported for 1917, \$3,035,539, is more than double that reported for 1916, \$1,430,866, and while this increase is in part accounted for by the inclusion in the 1917 record of the British Crown, which had previously conducted the business under provincial license, excluding the figures of this Company, the increase in hail premiums of the Dominion licensed companies last year was over a As the 1916 total of premiums million dollars. was nearly double that reported for 1915, it is evident that the growth of this business is very rapid, with the probability that in the next few years, the total volume of premiums will reach quite respectable dimensions.

Appreciation of the advantages of hail insurance by the Western farmers is obviously making great strides, and the field is large enough to render the competition of the municipal mutuals, which have been established in several of the provinces, a factor of no very great importance. The companies acquired considerable prestige in this business in the very bad year, 1916. Naturally, they paid their losses then, as usual, prompt-

ly and in full, while the municipal mutual schemes were incapable of paying more than a fraction of the year's losses, and had to resort to various schemes of re-organisation in order to carry on. A practical experience of that kind is worth tons of theoritical argument in showing the insured, which method of insurance is the better for him.

The year 1916, as has been said, was exceptionally bad, even in a business, which is notoriously either "prince or pauper." However, the table shows that a number of the companies made considerable strides last year in recovering from the 1916 experience. They doubled and tripled, in some cases even quadrupled, their 1916 premjum incomes, and almost uniformly, had a very fair 1917 experience. While apparently two companies gave up the business after 1916, it seems that those remaining will have no cause to regret their decision.

A business which is marked by such extraordinary fluctuations in experience as is that of hail insurance, can it seems, best be transacted by strong multiple-line companies. Such companies would not be disturbed by a year of bad experience, while on the other hand, in view of the rapid development of the business, a good year would mean very useful addition to profits.

The increasing importance of hail insurance was recognised, in last year's Insurance Act by a provision requiring specific reserves to an amount of 50 per cent of the net premiums received.

HAIL INSURANCE IN CANADA: TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE OF DOMINION LICENSED COMPANIES.

	Net Premiums 1917	Net Losses Incurred 1917	% Losses to Premiums 1917	Net Premiums 1916	Net Losses Incurred 1916	% Losses to Premiums 1916
ceadia merican Central British America. British Crown. Anada Hail. Canada Weather. Connecticut. Connecticut. Dominion. Glens Falls. Great American. Hartford. Home. Home. Hudson Bay. North-Western National. St. Paul F. & M.	\$37,326 127,834 587,529 65,516 5,279 207,384 71,134 249,775 494,365 866,348 129 1,592 111,691 209,637	412,223 None 614 83,965	75.2	\$ 8,024 17,818 99,879 108,412 81,360 55,471 24,598 77,577 53,498 168,940 417,385 184 169,307 58,246 90,167	\$16,907 50,153 113,862 106,407 52,926 49,628 18,938 75,647 60,442 198,622 480,802 1,002 172,418 87,503 84,776	$ \begin{array}{c} 111.6\\ 115.2\\ 542.1\\ 101.8\\ 150.2 \end{array} $
Westchester		-		\$1,430,866	\$1,570,033	109.7

#### PERSONALS.

Major H. A. Stewart, D.S.O., has returned to Montreal, after three years' service overseas, where he was attached to the Imperial Army in France, with his Unit, which has been in Ypres Salient for nearly three years. Major Stewart was mentioned in Sir Douglas Haig dispatches and awarded the D.S.O. while with the Imperial Army. He is a member of the well-known insurance firm of Lukis Stewart & Co., Limited, Montreal.

Mr. J. H. Riddell, manager for Canada of the British Crown Insurance Company, spent a few days in Montreal, this week.

A convention of the Life Underwriters' Association will be held at the Hotel Astor, New York, commencing September 4th. Addresses will be delivered by the following prominent Canadians, Sir Edmund Walker, Mr. Herbert C. Cox, Mr. T. B. Macaulay, Hon. Sir Charles Fitzpatrick and others.



#### CANADIAN LIFE COMPANIES' POLICY LOANS.

Comparison of the position of the Canadian life companies' policy loans as at 31st December, 1917, with the record of preceding years indicates that war prosperity in Canada is having an important effect in this connection. The net increase for last year is reported as only \$1,615,-103, a lower figure than in any preceding year since 1906, at which date, of course, the possibilities of borrowing in this way were very much less than they were in 1917. The 1917 increase in these loans is actually little more than onefourth the increase which took place in the year of the war's beginning, when as a result of the pronounced slump in security values and other causes, policy loans were expanded during the twelve-months' by \$5,329,108. The 1917 growth is also less than one-third the increase of 1913. when the after-effects of an era of pronounced expansion and speculation were beginning to be felt in Canada.

As a result of the relatively small increase last year in the aggregate of these policy loans, their proportion to the companies' re-insurance reserves, which decreased sharply in 1916 from the record level of 17.3 per cent. recorded in 1915, was further reduced in 1917 from 16.7 per cent to 16.0 per cent. But this proportion is still in excess of the 1913 proportion, a fact which suggests that the 1917 decrease in proportion is due more to a falling-off in new borrowings than to any marked improvement in repayments. The record intimates the probability that no very considerable proportion of the large borrowings made in 1913 and 1914 have since been repaid.

The following table shows the loans and premium obligations upon policies of the Canadian life companies (including two fraternal organisations) since 1901, and the proportion such loans and obligations bear to the companies' net reserves:—

		P.C. 01
Amount,	Year's I	leserves,
Dec. 31.	Increase.	Dec. 31.
0.000.011	\$ 867,215	10.6
24.4 1001 140	1,412,202	11.0
1906 11,091,446	2,966,066	12.7
1907 14,057,512	2,693,334	13.8
1908 16,750,846		13.8
1909 18,409,651	1,658,805	13.9
1910 20,409,223	1,999,572	States - Sta
1911 22,960,040	2,550,817	14.2
1912 25,879,863	2,919,823	14.4
1913 30,875,309	4,995,446	15.7
1010	5,329,108	17.0
00000000	3,099,256	17.3
11 101 070	1,830,705	16.7
1916 41,134,378	1,615,103	16.0
1917 42,749,481	1,010,100	

The year 1905, it may be noted, marked a low point in the proportion of these loans to the companies' reserves, though for several years previously, there had been no very pronounced fluctuation in this proportion. As the table shows, the discovery of the possibilities of securing easily and cheaply ready cash by means of borrowing on life policies really dates from the panic year, 1907. From time to time, there is a certain amount of

lamentation by life insurance officials regarding this discovery, and in the United States, it has even been proposed that efforts should be made by the companies to obtain legislative restriction of the facilities for borrowing. In point of fact, wholesale condimination of the practise of borrowing on life policies is not justified. Admittedly, there is a good deal of foolish borrowing, but on the other hand, borrowing on policies in cer-tain cases is not only legitimate, but good business. Certainly any attempt to restrict a privilage, by which a policyholder, who meets with sudden financial misfortune, can raise funds easily and cheaply, would re-act very unfavorably upon the business of life insurance. What companies, and their agents can do, is to provide easy facilities for the repayment of loans, and to use their opportunities of dissuading policyholders from borrowing except in cases of misfortune or necessity or for purposes at whose legitimacy no sensible business man will cavil.

#### MY FIRST INSURANCE LESSON.

About twenty years ago, when a very young man, I was travelling through China in my search for experience and knowledge I came one day upon the execution ground in the ancient city of Canton. The executioner, to whom my guide introduced me, regretted that I had arrived too late to see the day's executions, to which the headless bodies which were strewn carelessly around the narrow yard, bore tragic witness.

"It is unfortunate," said the guide, "but if you would like to witness the skill of the executioner it can be arranged. There are no more criminals awaiting execution but I can soon find a coolie who will take the place of one so that you may see how it is done. It will cost you fifty dollars."

The horror of the suggestion was for the moment lost in my wonder as to how the guide could so easily find a coolie who was willing to have his head chopped off.

"There are thousands of coolies who would be willing to give their heads for fifty dollars," explained the guide. "With fifty dollars a coolie could leave his father and mother in luxury for the rest of their lives, and that to a Chinese is the greatest of all things to be desired."

Surprised beyond measure, but not doubting the truth of the statement, knowing what I did of Chinese character, I left the place, but I took from there my first and best lesson in the greatness of life insurance.

An ignorant, down-trodden, miserable Chinese coolie would give his head so that those he loved might live in ease. And yet in the Western world there were millions who refused to sacrifice a small portion of their income to accomplish the same purpose.

I have often told this story to prospects when soliciting and have put to them this pertinent question—

"If you do not carry adequate life insurance can you truthfully say you are as good a man as that lowest Chinaman?"—Albert Goldie, Continental Life.



#### ALIVE BUT PRESUMED TO BE DEAD. M. L. HAYWARD, B.C.L.

It is a general rule that any person not heard from for over seven years under certain circumstances is presumed to be dead, and when the proper facts are proved his estate may be administered by the Courts and closed up the same as it is if he were known to be dead, and if the absent party has any life insurance it may be collected as well.

In this connection a case decided by the Iowa Supreme Court raised an interesting point. It appeared by the evidence that a party named Jarvis took out two policies for \$1,350 each in the New York Life Insurance Company, and later on he disappeared from his home and his friends and the members of his family had not heard from him for more than seven years.

His estate was then administered in the Probate Court and a claim was made for the insurance money, which the Insurance Company offered to pay if the beneficiaries under the policies would give a bond to repay the money in case it later on appeared that Jarvis was not in fact dead. The beneficiaries refused to do this and the company then paid the policies without insisting on this condition.

The company's fear that Jarvis would prove to be alive was well founded, as, after the insurance money had been paid, Jarvis returned to Iowa alive and well as anybody, enjoying the distinction of being probably the only man in his state who was in the unique position of seeing the beneficiaries enjoying the proceeds of the insurance which he had placed on his own life payable only in the event of his death.

The insurance company, however, did not relish the situation, promptly brought suit against the beneficiaries to recover back the money paid on the policies, and the question for the decision of the court was whether under these circumstances the beneficiaries could be compelled to refund the money.

The decision was that the company could not collect the money and that the beneficiaries were entitled to retain it regardless of whether Jarvis were living or dead.

"The obligation of the company under these policies was to pay the amount named therein to the proper beneficiaries, within sixty days after due notice and satisfactory proof of death," said the Iowa Supreme Court in deciding the point, "and that proof of death stating the facts which, if established, would show the liability of the company was furnished, and no objection thereto on the part of the company was made. Under these conditions, and for the purpose of avoiding an action on the policies, the company elected to pay over the amount thereof to the persons entitled to receive the insurance money if Jarvis were in fact dead, and this compromise and settlement of a claim based on the assertion of his deat! was, we think, binding and conclusive on the company. Had a judgment been secured in an action by the administrator with authority to represent the rights of all persons interested in the proceeds of the policies, such judgment would have been conclusive as to the death of Jarvis, and the com-

pany could not, after paying the amount of such judgment, have recovered back the money paid on discovering that the essential fact in issue in the case, to wit, the death of Jarvis, had been erroneously adjudicated. The judgment would have been conclusive as to that fact. Therefore we think that a settlement by which the money was paid for the purpose of avoiding a suit in which such a judgment might have been rendered is also conclusive, and that the company cannot now recover back the money thus paid.

"Where parties have entered into a contract or arrangement based upon uncertain or contingent events purposely as a compromise of a doubtful claim arising from them and there is an absence of bad faith, violation of confidence, misrepresentation, concealment, or other inequitable conduct, if the facts upon which such agreement or transaction was founded turned out very differently from what was expected or anticipated. this error, miscalculation, or disappointment, although relating to a matter of fact and not of law, is not such a mistake within the meaning of the equitable doctrine as entitles the disappointed party to any relief. In such classes of agreements and transactions the parties are supposed to calculate the chances, and they certainly assume the risks."

#### CARRYING INSURANCE MAKES MEN MORE CAREFUL OF MONEY.

The very fact that he carries life insurance will make the average citizen more careful with his money. He will become a useful citizen because he will have broadened out to the point where he considers not the present and his present needs alone, but the present in its relationship to the future.

Life insurance then instils foresight, because the very consideration of life insurance—the taking out of a life insurance policy — is foresight personified.

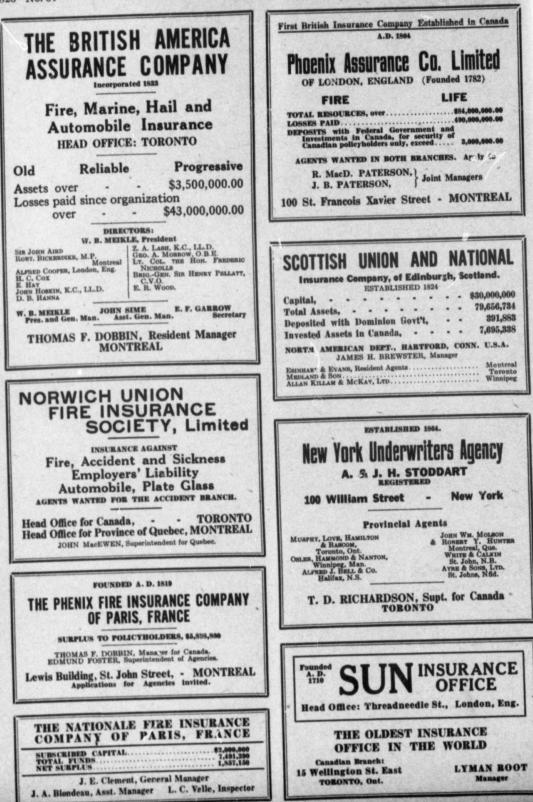
The man who has acquired the habit of thrift and who, in addition, applies his thrift habit for the future as well as for the present, that man each day becomes a better prospective bank customer, because he has learned the secret of the accumulation of money, and he must put that money in or through a bank in one way or another.

Life insurance affects the wealth of a community in another way. It has a direct influence on banking through the payment of death claims. Insurance money is a substantial part of many estates, and in some instances there would be no estate at all without it.

Statistics show that 95 per cent. of all men between the ages of 50 and 60 have lost all they ever had and are dependent upon their daily labor for a living. A man of 50 has difficulty in finding lugrative employment; a man of 60 has difficulty in finding any employment at all.

Statistics also show that only one man in five thousand at the age of 65 can recover himself on a financial footing. The other 4,999 are either paupers or are dependent upon their relatives for support—The Standard, Boston.

THE CHRONICLE



#### THE CHRONICLE

#### CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

(Compiled by The Chronicle).

Fire at St. John's, P.Q.—By the fire which occurred on July 24th, on the premises of the St. John's Land & Building Co., St. John's, P.Q., the following companies are interested on building: Strathcona, \$3,000; Yorkshire, \$2,500; Royal, \$2,900. Total, \$8,400. Loss total.

Fire at Preston.—On July 29th a fire occurred in the Niopel Block, Preston, Ont., destroying the Preston Process Printing Co., and three other stores. Los estimated at \$25,000.

Fire at Peace River, Alta. — On July 26th a fire destroyed the Selkirk Hotel, an old frame building at Peace River. Mr. Henry Ford, his wife and two children, lost their lives. Other inmates had marrow escapes. Loss about \$20,000.

Fire near New Hamburg, Ont.—On July 27th the large barns, property of Wesley Wolfe, was struck by lightning and destroyed together, with 40 loads of hay and about 75 bushels of grain. Loss about \$3,000. Insured for \$1,500.

Fire at Swansea, Ont.—On the 27th July, a fire occurred on the premises of the Steel Co. of Canada, caused by an over heated oil furnace. Loss about \$3,000.

Fire at Winnipeg.—On the 28th instant a fire occurred on the premises of F. S. Newman & Co., Winnipeg, Man. Loss not known as we go to press.

#### SUNSTROKES ARE ACCIDENTS.

The Indiana Supreme Court has reversed a lower court decision in favor of the Fidelity & Casualty based upon the interpretation of a sunstroke clause in the company's policy and ordered a new trial. The clause read that "Sunstroke suffered through accidental means shall be deemed bodily injury within the meaning of the policy." The company contended that this meant violence, but the court rules that sunstroke is an accident no matter how the person suffering from it may have received the attack. The opinion was as follows:

"The purpose of accident insurance is to protect the insured against accidents that occur while he is going about his business in the usual way, without any thought of being injured or killed, and when there is no probability, in the ordinary course of events, that he will suffer injury or The reason men secure accident insurdeath. ance is to protect them from unforeseen, unusual and unexpected injury that might happen to them while pursuing the ordinary and usual routine of their daily vocation or the doing of the things that men do in the common every-day affairs of life. ... We are constrained to hold that the injury here in question was caused by 'accidentalmeans.' "

#### SUES CHARLOTTE, N. C., FOR FIRE LOSS.

Col. T. L. Kirkpatrick, as attorney in the name of James Muck, has bought suit in the Superior Court against the city of Charlotte, N. C., City Water Works and the City Board of Water Commissioners for actual and punitive damages in the sum of \$10,000, it being alleged that the damages were sustained in the recent fire, when about fifty houses were burned.

The complaint alleges the damages were sustained because of insufficient water pressure for fire fighting purposes, it being declared therein that these officials failed to furnish water pressure at the proper time. Also, it is alleged that they failed to maintain the proper size water mains, failed to maintain a sufficient number of hydrants, and that the city water works "wilfully and wantonly failed to turn on the pressure after receiving notice to do so" from the firemen while they were engaged in fighting this fire.

#### ADVERTISING.

A. & F. Pears, the famous English soap makers, were spending a quarter of a million dollars annually for advertising some fifteen years. The annual business ran well into the millions, and Pears Soap became well known throughout the civilized world.

About this time, the directors decided that as the concern was selling its full output, that the advertising could be dispensed with, and it was stopped.

Within six months the company lost 35 per cent. of its total business, and it cost \$6,500,000 to get back to where they had left off.

As illustrating the short memory of the public, and the practical value of uninterrupted advertising.

And by the same token, the largest, and most popular insurance companies and agencies are the steady advertisers.—Boston Standard.

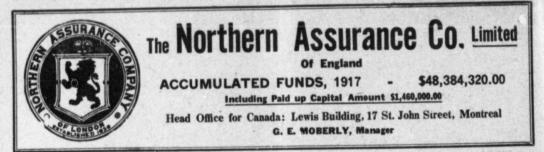
#### OLD SHOES.

#### (Anonymous.)

How much a man is like old shoes! For instance, each a soul may lose; Both have been tanned-both are made tight By cobblers-both get left and right. Both need a mate to be complete. And both are made to go on feet. They both need healing; oft are sold; And both, in time, turn all to mold. With shoes the last is first; with men The first shall be last, and when The shoes wear out they are mended new. When men wear out they're men dead, too! They both are trod upon and both Will tread on others-nothing loath. Both have their ties, and both incline, When polished, in the world to shine: And both peg out. And would you choose. To be a man or be his shoes?

THE CHRONICLE

MONTREAL, AUGUST 2, 1918



# **Bailway Passengers Assurance Company**

of London, England

Transacts: ACCIDENT, HEALTH, EMPLOYERS' AND PUBLIC LIABILITY, MOTOR CAR, ELEVATOR, TEAMS, PLATE GLASS, BURGLARY AND FIDELITY BONDING

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

Montreal Branch: 702 Lewis Building, 17 St. John Street

THE ST. PAUL FIRE AND MARINE INSURANCE COMP ASSETS OVER \$13,000,000

INCORPORATED 1865

REPRESENTED IN TORONTO BY McADAM, SHERRITT & COMPANY General Agents

**36 Toronto Street** 

Excelsior Life Building

**BRITISH TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED** ESTABLISHED 1865 Head Office for Canada: TORONTO

Head Office: HONG KONG

### FIRE & MARINE INSURANCE

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

Manager for Canada, C. R. DRAYTON C. R. G. JOHNSON, POIRIER & JENNINGS, Inc., General Agents, MONTREAL

