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THE GENERAL FINANCIAL SITUATION

The recent applications by a number of public utility companies for increased rates, together with the prevalent tightness of money, and consequent high interest and dividend yields from investment securities, bring into prominence the general question of the remuneration received by capital for its services or use. If the purchasing value of a dollar at the present time is only equal to the purchasing value, of 50 or 60 cents ten years ago, then an 8 or 10 per cent dividend rate which has remained unchanged, is in the hands of the shareholder's at present only equivalent to from four to six per cent., in so far as it is used to purchase the ordinary necessities and reasonable comforts of life. This proviso should be noted, inasmuch as this argument is frequently put in such a way as to suggest that the cutting in two of the purchasing power of dividends which have remained at stationary levels involves hardship to the wealthy, or necessarily to those whose income is entirely made up of, such dividends. Such is, in fact, not the case. To those, whose means are slender, and who are entirely dependent upon dividends or interest for their income, some hardship may ensue, but this class is not a large one in Canada. In the case of the really wealthy, it is simply futile to argue that the decline in the purchasing power of the dollar has been a serious matter. It may have meant in certain cases, an inability to purchase various luxuries, or lack of wherewithal to indulge in ostentatious display. But that it means any real hardship comparable, for instance, to that undergone by those belonging to the large class with moderate salaries, cannot be pretended.

With the necessary proviso, the fact remains that the remuneration of capital has not increased in anything like the same proportion during recent years as the remuneration of so-called "labour." The increase in the return received by capital can broadly be gauged by the advance in the rate of interest afforded by Canadian Government securities. These in 1914 were on a four per cent. basis : at the present time, their level is $5\frac{1}{2}$ to $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. But it must be observed that the advantage of this increase is only derived by newly invested

capital. Capital already invested secures no advantages; in fact it is at a serious disadvantage owing to the rise in the rate of interest resulting in the shrinkage of the value of the body of capital There is not an institutional or individual itself. investor holding high-grade securities purchased before the war whose capital account has not been seriously depleted as a result of the rise in the rate of interest. The comparative position of capital is therefore very much worse than that of "labour" as a result of the changes of recent years. Whereas the remuneration of "labour" has been increased, in many cases to a point of ridiculous over-payment for services rendered, the increased remuneration secured by newly invested capital is offset by the losses sustained by old invested capital,-more than offset in fact,-while the further fact remains that dividends which have not been increased since 1914, in proportion as the purchasing power of the dollar has decreased, are of so much less value in the hands of the individual shareholder.

It is possible enough that before the war, labour did not receive a sufficient share in the products of its industry. But that is no reason why it should now be over paid or why capital should not receive an increased return commensurate with new conditions. Apart from the holders of high-grade securities, such as Government bonds, who have lost very heavily in volume of capital, the pinch has been most severely felt by holders of public utility and railroad securities, very few of which companies have increased their dividends over the levels ruling in 1914. The increases in rates which have been lately asked for do not contemplate possible increases in dividends, but merely the maintainance of the existing condition of affairs. This is scarcely too much to ask, if capital is to continue to be interested in the development and extension of these The threat which has been made in properties. Ontario in connection with the Bell Telephone Company's application that a competing Government owned system*would be set up is, we believe, idle, in view of the existing immense cost of materials and the difficulty of procuring them, while experience with Government owned and run telephone and telegraph system in other countries than Can-

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER 3, 1920

The Royal Indemnity Company

is now transacting business

In the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario

PERSONAL ACCIDENT

GUARANTEE BONDS

BOILER AND FLY WHEEL

BURGLARY



SICKNESS

LIABILITY

AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY

PROPERTY DAMAGE

COLLISION

CHARLES H. HOLLAND, President

CANADIAN OFFICES

Montreal Royal Insurance Building RICHARD J. BOND, Superintendent for Canada Toronto Royal Insurance Building JULIAN H. FERGUSON, Superintendent for Ontario

The Chronicle

Banking, Insurance and finance

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MONTREAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 1920

(Continued from front Page)

ada, does not give much confidence as to the value of the service, which such a system, even if established, would afford to the public.

That the present high rate of interest on capital will not be maintained indefinitely, but will gradually decrease over a series of years goes without saying. But it can only decrease as the cost of labour and materials comes down; in proportion as prices generally decrease. The investor who a few years ago was buying a 6 per cent, bond is now buying an 8 per cent preferred stock; he will not return to the 6 per cent, bond until the proceeds of its coupons will purchase for him the equivalent of what today he can purchase with his 8 per cent, dividend cheques.

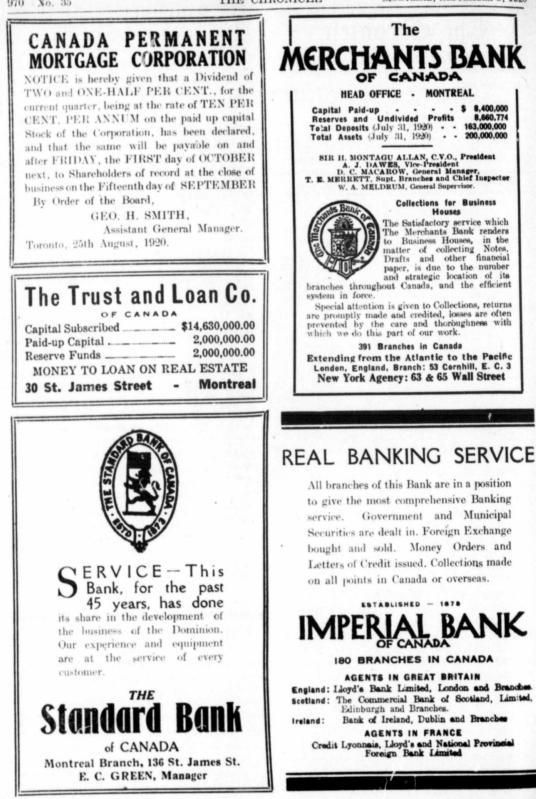
The July Bank Statement holds out little hope to those who are anticipating easier money conditions at an early date. Once again, current loans show a monthly' increase considerably in excess of that recorded by notice deposits, which are the principal mainstay of these loans, while the comparative yearly figures indicate that the position of affairs in respect of these two matters is steadily becoming more strained than before. The month's increase in current loans in Canada amounted to \$12,125,770, bringing these loans to a new high record figure of \$1,377,276,853. On the other hand, notice deposits were enlarged by only \$9,469,456, the smallest increase of the last twelve months with the exception of December, when the effects of the last Victory Loan were being felt. This enlargement brings up the total of these deposits to \$1,253,170,-433. Thus at the end of July, notice deposits were fully \$124,000,000 behind current loans and discounts in Canada in their aggregate. The manner in which these deposits are tailing to keep pace with current loans and discounts is shown strikingly in the figures of increases for the last twelve months to the end of July. Whereas current loans have increased in the periood by no less than \$362,889,647, notice deposits have been enlarged by only \$78,078,275.

The concurrent relatively small increase in the banks' circulation of \$3,758,980 for the month and \$24,627,292 for the year, shows clearly enough that this vast increase in the banks' loans in Canada, and the minor accumulation of notice deposits is not due to the activity of trade and industry within the Dominion itself. It is, in fact, closely related, as has been previously pointed out in these columns, to the heavy excess of imports which our trade returns are now showing, and to the phenomena of extravagant spending which are still so much in evidence. We are inclined to think that possibly also to come extent, though doubtless not a very large one, the minor increase in notice deposits is likewise to be accounted for by the fact that certain classes are now finding that high prices have overtaken increases in wages to a greater extent than two or three years ago. Be that as it may, there can be no question regarding the influence of our present heavy importations upon the banks' loaning position. The July trade figures, which are also now available, afford little cause for satisfaction in this connection. With imports of \$127,-268,811 and exports of \$104,875,624, the adverse balance of trade amounting to \$22,393,187 is some \$6,000,000 less than the adverse balance for the month of June, but it compares with a balance of exports over imports in July, 1919, of \$29,505,600. The change is brought about by an increase in imports of no less than \$13,000,000 and a reduction in exports of practically \$9,000,000. The position in respect to exports would be very much worse but for the large proportionate increase in exports of wood, paper, etc., which in July this year were \$28,775,429 compared with \$17,696.673 in July a year ago. There remains to be seen what effect exports of the new crops will have upon the condition of our external trade in the closing months of the year. As it is, for the seven months to the end of July there is an adverse balance of \$167,297,021, compared with a favourable balance in the corresponding seven month of 1919 of \$153,769,023.

Preferential Trade Agreement Between Canada and British West Indies

A preferential trade agreement has been concluded between Canada and the British West Indies, providing for mutual reductions of import duties of from 20 to 50 per cent., and an extension of the existing reciprocal free list. Improved steamship service between Canada and the islands will be established. The announcement has been made that early in 1921 a Canadian Government steamship line known as the Western Steamship Service will commence sailings between Nova Scotia and Bermuda, the Bahamas and British Honduras. 970 No. 35

THE CHRONICLE



CANADA AND THE BRITISH WEST INDIES

In view of the many reciprocal advantages to be gained by closer trade relations between Canada and the British West Indies, which has been so frequently referred to by Mr. T. B. Macaulay (President Sun Life) through the press, the following editorial from the New York Journal of Commerce is well worthy of attention :—

The Spanish-American War resulted in the annexation of Porto Rico by the United States and the assumption of a protectorate over Cuba. A few years later came the virtual American protectorates over San Domingo and Haiti, with the purchase of the Virgin Islands from Denmark.

This extension of American authority and influence at once has brought into sharp discussion the question of the ultimate destiny of the remaining European possessions. America needs tropical products, affords a near market, and her recently acquired possessions have an opening to these markets on such advantageous terms that the other West Indies find it difficult to compete. As an illustration, Jamaica's position, where she is compelled to meet the competition of Porto Rico, which enjoys free trade with the United States, and also of Cuba, with especial reciprocal advantages, has been difficult in the extreme. This is merely typical of the situation in the other islands. But the British possessions have an especial opportunity to make new commercial arrangements with the Dominion of Canada, which is likewise a part of the British Empire. The growing population of Canada also needs tropical products, and its eastern ports are much nearer than those of Europe. If proper trade and tariff agreements can be entered into there would be an opportunity for Jamaica, Barbadoes and other British possessions in the West Indies to acquire a market that in time might equal at least the advantages enjoyed by the American possessions.

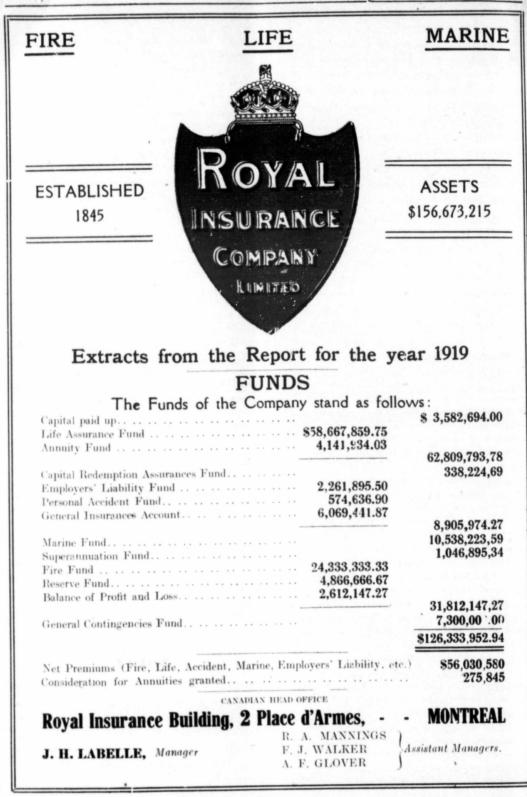
That our British friends at home have not been unaware of these trade problems is shown by the various suggestions during the past year that the United States might accept Jamaica in payment of the British war debt, thus meeting in advance and solving a destined separatis problem and "cashing in" while yet there was time to realize upon the colonial property. But this suggestion has not met with favor among the inhabitants of the British possessions in the western hemisphere, either continental or insular. They have felt the wonderful impulse toward unity that was the almost miraculous result of the war efforts throughout the whole world empire of Great Britain. Their loyalty to the British Crown is stronger than at any time in

history. They have met the present commercial difficulty, which probably will increase in force during the next few years, with a strong and logical movement toward unity on their own account, and this movement is worthy of careful study on the part of American business, which now, as never before, must look to the future.

The first result of this new British colonial development may be the final uniting of Newfoundland with the Dominion of Canada, of which it is not yet a member. This would add to the breadth of future Canadian markets. Also Canada itself is about to enter upon a period of tariff readjustment, the whole matter being the subject for careful study by the present Government, and also by experts well fitted for the purpose. Some two months ago a commission of business men from the West Indies, especially Jamaica, were in Canada and were received with great hospitality. The conferences that were held cannot but have important results in the near future. The Canadian business men and those from the various British possessions around the Caribbean Sea have too much mutually to offer each other to allow this opening of negotiations to fall short of some final accomplishment. It should be remembered that the trade between the British and French possessions in the East Indies, on the one hand, and the continental colonies in Canada, and later those which became the United States, on the other, was the cause of the political controversies that resulted in the many wars of the eighteenth century and these conflicts changed the whole map of the world, being just as influential in India or Africa as in America or the Far East. The building of the Suez and Panama canals was only a later expression of this world movement to acquire trade and markets. The United States has at present a position of wonderful strategic advantage in the West Indies. It cannot afford to sit back and let things slide. Other powers, by the use of perfectly legitimate and fair measures, will finally absorb the largest share of this trade or we must meet them on terms of equality and acquire our proper share. But this will not come merely for the asking.

NOTICE

We regret that owing to a delay in shipment of paper, there will be no issue of *The Chronicle* on the 10th inst. The difficulty in procuring the quality of paper on which this journal is printed is considerably intensified, and the price has advanced nearly two hundred per cent. during the past few months.



ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED

Without any ostentation or special celebration, the Royal of Liverpool passed its seventy-fifth milestone on the date of its Annual Meeting, 31st May, 1920. On that occasion the chairman said:— "Three quarters of a century we register as passed in our history, and looking back over the way, we have come to see that the road has been a steady rising one. There have been depressions on the way, valleys even, as well as steep gradients, but looked at from the height which we have now reached, these are blotted out, and in retrospect we are cognizant only of the general upward trend and the exhilaration of the higher altitude reached. Before us still stretch loftier summits, which we face with a confidence engendered by the success of the past."

Fire Department.

When reviewing the various branches of insurance transacted by the company, the chairman very aptly said that the fire department always remains the great bulwark of the Royal's fortunes. For the year under review net fire premiums totalled approximately \$30,444,000. This record amount indicates an increase of about \$2,742,000 as compared with 1918-and accompanying this important increase in premiums was a moderate loss ratio figuring at 44.39 per cent. of the premiums, as compared with 46.79 per cent. in the preceding year. The loss ratio for the year under review recorded in the fire department was the most favourable experienced for the past twenty years. Expenses, including contributions to fire brigades, figure a ratio of nearly 38 per cent., an apreciable increase of roughly two per cent. of premiums. This increase bears out the anticipations expressed by the chairman at the Annual Meeting in 1919. The surplus of \$5,574,625 has been carried to Profit and Loss Account.

Transacting practically all branches of insurance, the Royal showed a total net premium income, for the year 1919, of well over \$56,000,000, a growth of roughly \$8,000,000 as compared with 1918. The fire fund has been increased from \$19,466,667 to \$24,333,333. There is in addition a reserve fund of \$4,866,666. The assets show a growth of nearly \$13,000,000 and now stand at \$156,673,214.

Life Department.

In the Life Department the company shared to a remarkable extent in the increase of new business which took place over the world generally in 1919. 6617 new policies were issued for the imposing total of \$20,939,534, the largest amount ever written in one year in the company's history, and more than two and one half times the new business of 1918. The premium income for the year was \$5,143,656 and \$2,283,929 was derived from interest on invest-

ments, after allowing for income tax. But the outstanding feature of the report is the result of quinquennial valuation in respect of the five years ending on 31st December, 1919. The period covered by the valuation was a most trying one for life insurance companies generally, not only on account of the extra mortality due to the War and the influenza but also because of the depreciation in securities which has been steadily going on over the whole period. Notwithstanding the adverse conditions, however, the Royal was able to show a surplus of \$5,818,519 after valuing its life and annuity liabilities on a most stringent basis, and this easily admitted of the continuance of the same scale of profits as has now been maintained without interruption for the long period of 55 years, namely, an addition of \$15 to each \$1000 assured for each year's premium paid. In addition, all participating policies becoming claims before the next distribution of profits in 1925 will receive further profits at the same rate.

The war claims paid by the company amounted in all to \$1,807,840 and the fact that payment of this large sum has not interrupted the payment of the company's regular distributions of profits or caused any diminution in their amount affords ample evidence of the great financial strength of the Royal.

Canadian Branch.

It has been aptly stated by a contemporary, that the Royal is easily one of the most striking examples of enterprise and success which the British Nation has produced. It has come to be recognized that not only the letter, but the spirit of a contract, will be honoured when it bears the seal of the Royal Insurance Company. The Royal has held a commanding position in the Canadian field for many years. Its fire premium income in the Dominion has been consistently advanced year by year. Notwithstanding the increasingly keen competition in Canada, the Royal is likely to continue holding the place of honour in point of premium income, under the management of Mr. J. H. Labelle, who during his long record as a fire underwriter in the service of the Royal, has gained the esteem and respect not only of his confreres, but of everyone connected with him in business from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

The company's fire business in Canada has been uniformly prosperous. Last year the total net cash received for fire premiums amounted to \$1,764,826, showing an increase of nearly \$100,000 over 1918. Net losses incurred figured a ratio of 46.90 per cent. to premiums, as against 48.58 per cent. in 1918.

(Continued on page 975)

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THE CHRONICLE



Including its subsidiaries, the Queen, Hudson Bay and Newark Fire, the Royal's net fire premiums in Canada for 1919 totalled the large sum of \$2,724,565. In addition to fire and life insurance, the Royal is now operating casualty insurance in Canada through one of its most important subsidiaries, the Royal Indemnity Company. Mr. Richard J. Bond, a most experienced and capable casualty underwriter, is superintendent 1 c Canada of this department.

The Canadian Life Business for 1919 surpassed all previous records, the amount of new business written being \$3,230,316 of which \$228,522 was reassured. This is more than three times the amount written in 1918 and brings the Royal into first place among British Offices in Canada so far as new business is concerned. Under the energetic and able direction of Mr. I. W. Watts, the company's Canadian Superintendent of Life Agencies, the new life business of the Royal is rapidly being developed to a magnitude compatible with the company's world wide reputation and prestige. On 31st May last, the 75th anniversary of the company's foundation, the Canadian new business for 1920 passed the \$2,000,000 mark.

LLOYDS EVASION OF PUBLICITY FIRE AND CASUALTY INSURANCE

Commenting upon the operations of Lloyd's underwriters, the lack of definite information of the security back of their policies and their adoption of measures to avoid complete publicity, the "Policy-Holder" of Manchester says :--

"We have always had a great regard for many Lloyd's underwriters as individuals—but collectively, ever since the passing of the 1909 Assurance Companies Act, we have had a disagreement with them. The point is quite simple, we hold that every company and every person carrying on insurance business should place before the insuring public full information as to the financial resources so that policy holders may judge for themselve as to whether it is wise or otherwise to trust them for insurance purposes.

Requirements of the Law.

"In the ordinary way all companies and persons writing these classes of business are now obliged to submit their affairs to the searchlight of publicity, exception being made in the case of Lloyd's underwriters."

The law provides specially for Lloyd's underwriters and the deposit for the latter is £2,000 as against £20,000 for a company. Lloyd's underwriters do not require to make the same Government Returns as the companies, consequently Lloyd's evade publicity of financial returns..

The Insuring public in Great Britain are more f niliar than the people of this country with the

differences between Lloyd's contracts, and those of the companies.

Each underwriter is liable only for the amount set opposite his name, (a fact not generally known) and to recover under a Llody's policy at law, each underwriter must be sued separately. The somewhat lower rates quoted by Lloyds for fire and casualty risks do not offset the satisfaction afforded the holders of policies backed by the known resources (which are given publicity) of numerous established Companies.

Continental Casualty Company Resigns From Bureau

The Eastern Casualty Underwriters' Association, of which all insurance companies writing employers' liability and compensation insurance are members, have accepted the resignation of the Continental Casualty Company.

Mr. H. G. B. Alexander of Chicago, the President of the Company, some months ago advocated the adoption by the Association of a system of merit rating supplementing the plan of experience rating at present being followed by the Association. The Continental and a number of companies accustomed to inspection and analystical system of rate adjustment endeavored to bring about the immediate inspection of all risks coming within the factory act of the Province of Quebec.

However, it was felt that the adoption of the Schedule Rating system would entail too large an operation expense, and that a modified system would be adopted, that will be satisfactory to all companies operating in Quebec, regardless of the premium income.

DEATH OF MR. J. B. HUGHES

The death occurred on August 26th of Mr. J. B. Hughes at Waterloo, Ont. Mr. Hughes was a resident of Waterloo for 56 years, where he became inspector of the Waterloo Mutual, which position he held for 12 years. He subsequently was appointed special agent for Canada of the Aetna Fire Insurance Co. of Hartford, and served that company for nearly thirty years, when failing eyesight at the age of 82 years compelled him to retire about two years ago. His services with the Aetna were highly appreciated, and his rugged honest nature made him extremely popular, more especially among the agents of the Aetna. His adjustments were always fair, and he never tried to beat an assured. In Waterloo he took a great interest in local affairs, and especially the hospital, being its president for eight years. The funeral took place on August 28th, and was largely attended. A. M. M. Kirkpatrick, Chief Agent, and J. R. Stewart, Special Agent, representing the "Aetna."



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CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

Fire near Newcastle, N.B .- By the fire which occurred on August 21st in the Lumber Yard of the Edward Sinclair Lumber Co. about three miles from Newcastle, N.B. The lumber destroyed was owned by Malcomb Mackay Ltd. The following companies are interested :- Atlas, \$5,000; Allied Und., \$1,000; Alliance, \$2,500; British Colonial \$5,000; British Traders, \$3,500; Commercial Union, \$5,000; Caledonian, \$3,000: Continental \$4,000; Employers. \$4,500; Fidelity Phenix, \$6,500; Fidelity Und., \$6,000; General of Perth, \$2,500; Hartford, \$10,-500; Home, \$4,000; Imperiaal Und., \$5,500; London Assurance, \$2,500; London & Lancashrie, \$8,-000 : Liverpool & London & Globe, \$3,000 : London Guarantee, \$12,000; Montreal Und.; \$4:000; New York Und., \$5,000; North America, \$8,000; North British & Mercantile, \$4,000; North West, \$4,000; National Union, \$4,000; Nova Scotia, \$2,500; National of Hartford, \$2,000; Occidental, \$9,000: Palatine, \$10,000; Phoenix of London, \$3,500; Quebec \$4,000 ; Queensland, \$6,500 ; Royal Exchange, \$12,-000; Royal, \$2,000; Royal Und., \$5,000; Scottish Union, \$2,000; Sun, \$3,000; Union of Canton, \$5,-000; Union of London, \$5,000; Western, \$5,000; Yorkshire; \$\$5,000. Total \$204,000. Loss total.

Fire at Point du Lac, P.Q.—On the 1st instant a fire destroyed the summer dwelling of Jules Bulcer, Insured by North America for \$12,500. Less total.

Fire at Chateau Richer, P.Q.—On August 29th a fire destroyed a bakery and six houses. Loss about \$6,500

Fire at Brigden, Ont --On 'August 30th a fire broke out in Sinclair's implement warehouse and extended to the Brigden Progress Co. and other property. Loss about \$9,000 partly covered.

Fire at Montreal.—On August 1st a fire broke out in Dominion Park in some of the booths near entrance, entailing a loss of about \$3,500. Insurance on schedule \$150,000.

Fire near Port Moody', B.C.—On August 27th a fire destroyed six dry kilns filled with shingles, also a loading shed and contents, and several C.P.R. box cars in process of loading at the McNair Shingle Company's new plant at the head of Burrard's Inlet. Loss about \$70,000.

TRAFFIC RETURNS

Canadian Pacific Railway

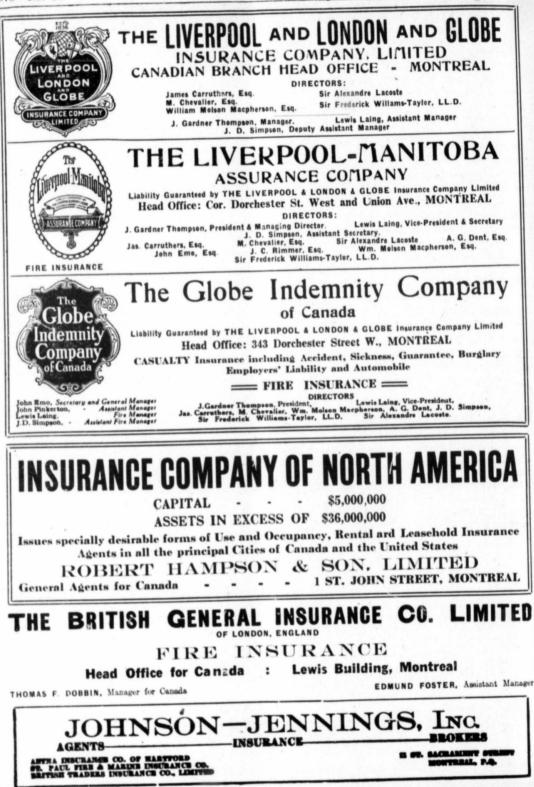
Year to date July C1	1918 \$82,133,000	1919 \$89,095,000\$	1920 3106,925,000	Increase \$17,830,000	
Week ending August 7 August 14 August 21	2,759,000	3,293,000	4,043,000	Increase \$514,000 745,000 521,000	
	Grand T	runk Railw	ray		
July 31				\$5,943,882	
Week ending	1918	1919	1920	Increase	
August 7 August 14 August 21	1,285,464	1,966,718 2,038,317	2,443,144 2,560,729	$476,426 \\ 522,412$	
	Canadian N	National Ra	ilways		
Year to date July 01	1918	1919	1920	Increase \$5,285,863	
Week ending August 7	1918 \$1,546,287	1919 \$1,846,508	1920 \$2,295,110	\$388,602	

August 14 1,583,071 1.926,349

500. ·	August 21 1,648,924 1 8 2,914 2,150,350 317
COLU INSURANCE COMPA	NY OF NEW JERSEY
Annual Statement as a	of December 31st, 1920
ASSETS Government and Municipal Bonds \$ 790,488.00 Railroad and Miscellaneous Bonds 553,890.00 Cash in Banks	LIABILITIES \$ 400,000.00 Unearned Premium Reserve 390,134.38 Losses in process of adjustment 105,426.82 All other claims 88,000.00 Surplus over all Liabilities 813,393.88
\$1,796,955.08	\$1,796,955.08
Head Office for Canada Montreal	R. MacD. Paterson J. B. Paterson
GENERAL AGENT	AN & CO. 5 FOR MONTREAL NG, MONTREAL

978 No. 35

THE CHRONICLE



STATE CONTROL OF INSURANCE

Bu W. D. Aiken

The question of revising the Workmen's Compensation Law in the Province of Quebec has come up from time to time and it has been frequently said that efforts will be made by certain interests to introduce a system of monopolistic State insurance following the lead of other Provinces.

The report of the Departmental Committee appointed to inquire into a system of compensation for injuries to workmen in Great Britain comes as a timely addition to the literature on the subject.

The Committee was a formidable one in comparison with many of the Commissions which were appointed to investigate the subject on this Continent. The evidence before the Committee was also of a most reliable and complete kind.

The purpose of the investigation was two-fo'd. Firstly to inquire into the desirability of establishing a system of State insurance or State control and secondly to report what alterations should be made to remedy defects in the existing law.

No doubt considerable prejudice had already been created in the minds of those concerned with Workmen's Compensation in England by the results of investigations of the subject elsewhere particularly in the United States. These earlier investigations have all been more or less remarkable for the amount of unreliable data submitted, the lack of preparedness to publish the true facts on the part of those who had access to them, the wanton and even ludicrous assertions of some witnesses whose evidence was given prominence and above all the illogical conclusions of the Commissions on many points.

The British Committee were no doubt faced in the very beginning with the findings of these earlier commissions and notwithstanding the great constitu-

FIRE

tional danger involved in State insurance, repeated recommendations for such a form of law must have had weight. In tackling the problem, the British Committee found themselves faced with three separate questions. Firstly the organization of a monopolistic State fund, secondly the organization of a competitive State fund and thirdly State control of the rates and administration of Stock and Mutual Companies.

The question of a monopolistic State fund immediately introduces great difficulties under the Constitution. These difficulties were only overcome in some of the American States by the deliberrate act of changing the written constitution. In Britain the Constitution is unwritten and is based upon the traditional rights of the people which cannot be altered at the will of the Government in power for the time being.

The first step towards the inauguration of monopolistic State Insurance schemes on this continent was the cutting off of the old common law right (in Britain this would incidentially involve the repeal of the Employers' Liability Act which still stands on the Statute Books for the benefit of injured workmen). The reason for this preliminary is clear.

It will be readily conceded that it would be folly for any Democratic State to take up the argument of the employer in the endless series of legal disputes which follow upon personal injury claims.

It was apparently as clear as day-light to the framers of the State monopoly laws on this Continent that the first step was to make disputes impossible, more particularly the carrying of any dispute to the law courts. The Common Law which entirely depended upon the right of access to the law court with the injured man would have to The result was the suppression of the Common go. (Continued on page 981)

PROFITS

TAKE pen and ink and paper. Write on the paper, something to this effect : "I'm a fire incurate effect : "I'm a fire insurance agent. I'd like to know if this 'Superior Service to Agents,' you are always talking about will really enable me to place more business on my books. I don't accept your agency,-yet, I just want the particulars of what you have to offer-then 1'll decide." Address your envelope : "Service Department "

If you are looking for something better in service don't miss this opportunity. Write us now.

The Continental Insurance Company OF NEW YORK. HENRY EVANS, President

TOMOBIL

CANADIAN HEAD OFFICE: 17 ST. JOHN STREET, MONTREAL. W. E. BALDWIN, Manager



HEAD OFFICE: HONG KONG

HEAD OFFICE FOR CANADA: TORONTO

MARINE INSURANCE FIRE

LOSSES PAID SINCE ORGANIZATION OVER \$50.000.000

JOHNSON-JENNINGS, Inc., General Agents, MONTREAL.

Manager for Canada, C. R. DRAYTON

THE STRATHCONA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

> HEAD OFFICE: MONTREAL. 90 ST. JAMES ST.

"For ten years the STRATH-CONA has pursued a safe and steady course and is now beginning to gather the fruits of its wise and sound policy."

Law remedy in the States and the precedent was followed in certain parts of Canada.

The British Committee make no such suggestion. On the other hand they carefully avoid all the constitutional difficulties surrounding it by leaving it severely alone.

"The evidence satisfied us that the administra-"tion of a Workmen's Compensation Act ne-"cessarily involves many disputes of law and "fact, and it is not desirable for the State to "enter into a sphere of administration involv-"ing disputes with workmen which frequently "become the subject of litigation."

Of course the Committee have reference to a Compensation Law under which appeal to the Courts is possible but their remarks have more significance when applied to the Common Law or the Employers' Liability Law which primarily involves the absolute propriety of the working man going to the Law Courts to enforce his right to lump sum damages.

This is the very kernel of the Report of twelve highly trained men after listening to the arguments to all sides of the question of State Insurance.

The logic of this finding will be perfectly clear to any one who is familiar with the administration of the Common Law or any form of Employers' Liability Law involving direct appeal to the law courts.

There is nothing definite or certain about a claim for personal injury. It involves the right of an individual to recompense for some personal harm. It involves the right which is open to all free men to claim protection from the aggression of others involving personal injury.

Nothing is more indefinite on account of the different viewpoints of men placed in a similar position. It is essentially a matter for argument and adjustment by compromise between individuals.

The State must never be a party to such an argument. It could never assume the place of the legal wrong-doer (even in the capacity of insurer) and litigate with the injured man on the subject of an exaggerated claim.

It might safely be inferred that this Report is the last word on the subject and no commission entrusted to investigate the same point in other democratic states in future is likely to find otherwise.

The Common Law and State Insurance cannot exist together. Why then did the British Committee not follow the weight of opinion in the American States and recommend suppression of the Common Law leaving it open to discuss the question of State Insurance entirely apart from this barrier.

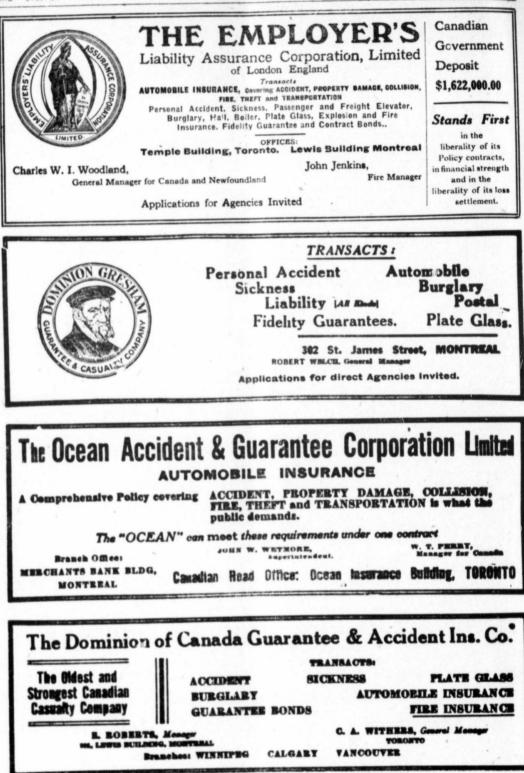
It might truly be said that the Common Law right is the very life blood of individual liberty and justice in every state where liberty is known. It had its beginning in England in Magna Charter when John promised to give to all men justice. What he really gave was a court of appeal. The old Curia Regis became the Court of the King's Bench and is now tthe King's Bench Division of the Law Away back in the early days there were Courts. Barons and common people just as there are to-day. Somebody was, and is, the master and somebody was, and is, the servant. When individual rights or liberty were interferred with and there was no written law to give relief, the Common Law of the ecourts had a remedy, and the remedy was justice pure and simple. From a small beginning the Law Courts have grown into a great institution of national liberty. They broke down the power of the old Barons inch by inch and accomplished for Englishmen in one case alone all that the French Revolution accomplished in breaking the last servile strand of the Feudal System. The supremacy of the Law Courts is the birthright of the people and it is a supremacy that has never been seriously threatened in England since the time of King Charles I, when the Star Chamber was abolished.

Insure in one of Canada's Oldest and Strongest Fire Insurance Companies Organized in 1862

The Acadia Fire Insurance Company OF HALIFAX LIABILITY UNDER ALL ACADIA POLICIES GUARANTEED BY PHOENIX ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED OF LONDON WHOSE ASSETS EXCEED \$98,000,000

MONTREAL AGENCIES, LIMITED GENERAL AGENTS MONTREAL TRUST BUILDING, MONTREAL JAS. D. CHERRY, Manager 982 No. 35

THE CHRONICLE



Firemens Insurance Co. of Newark and Girard Fire & Marine Insurance Co. Appoint Chief Agent for Canada.

Mr. Hugh R. M. Smith, assistant secretary of the Firemens Insurance Company of Newark, N.J., who has been visiting Montreal for the past two weeks, announces the appointment of Mr. Angus G. Fairbairn from the Western department of Chicago, as chief agent for Canada for both the Firemens Insurance Company and the Girard Fire and Marine Insurance Company. Mr. Fairbairn's office will be located in Lewis Building, St. John St., Montreal.

PROTECTING RESIDENTIAL AREAS

The following advertisement recently appeared in a Halifax paper :

"Notice is hereby given, that application has been made to the Building Inspector by the undersigned for permission to erect a shop on west side of Elm street between Chebucto road and Oak street. Any person objecting to the erection of this building within the residential district, should lodge a copy of said objections with the Building Inspector, City Hall."

The City Council of Regina, Sask., has before it for consideration an amendment to the fire limits bylaw, which, if passed, will prohibit the opening of business places in the residential districts of the city.

This legislation is in harmony with the efforts of the Town Planning Branch of the Commission of Conservation, which, for the protection of residential areas, has consistently advocated the zoning of towns and cities.

Unless a property owner has some guarantee that his investment will be safeguarded, there is little inducement to build or improve a home, even in the best residential districts, in most of our cities. In an eastern city, a permit was recently issued for the erection of a wood-working factory in the heart of a residential section. Although the residents formally protested against such construction urging that the area was purely residential and that the insurance rates on adjoining property would be considerably enhanced, the permit was not revoked.

Canadian Mills Get Big Textile Order

Negotiations of a nine million dollar order for woolen textiles for Rumania, have, it is stated been consumated. We understand the order has been allocated among the various manufacturers, and they are getting ready to begin production.

Canada has been getting after Rumanian business and has shipped considerable quantities of merchandise to the Balkan country. The woolen order was held up, it is reported, because the necessary financial arrangements could not be completed.

This difficulty has apparently been overceme, for a group of British financiers have perfected plans whereby Canadian manufacturers will receive cash against documents at the port of loading. These arrangements were originally discussed with the financiers by the secretary of the Canadian Association of Woolen Manufacturers, who made a special trip to England for the purpose.

Advices from Toronto state that 37 mills in the Lommion will participate in the cloth order and a similar number will handle the portion of the order relating to knit goods. About 1,900,000 yards of cloths, involving a cost of approximately \$7,000,000, will be taken, and knit goods to the extent of \$2,000,000.

Canadian manufacturers, it is pointed out, have peculiar advantages in getting foreign trade. The woolen manufacturers are well organized and their association is made up of most of the woolen mills in the Dominion, so that prices on wide range of woolen textiles can be quoted to foreign buyers for early delivery. It is understood that the delivery of the \$9,000,000 order has been promised within a period of six months.

There is considerable satisfaction over the placing of this particular order because many mills in the Dominion were shutting down for tack of orders. Many of the mills, for instance, installed equipment to turn out woolen blankets for military use, and these plants were kept busy, but the demand dropped when hostilities came to an end.

J. H. White, of London, who is visiting Canada in behalf of his firm, which has big spinning mills in the Yorkshire district, declared in an interview in Toronto that there will be no reduction in the price of woolen goods in the immediate future. He added that if labor refused to accept the final offer made by the mills the latter would shut down. He added :

"I am prepared to admit that abor was not getting a fair deal before the war, but having gained great advantages during the past few years their leaders are pressing their gains too far and unless they come to a more reasonable frame of mind they are in danger of losing all they have won.

"The leaders do not seem to realize the situation; mills cannot be run without a margin of profit, and at the present time of slump it would be more profitable to close down for a while.

When asked how the Canadian luxury tax affected the British woolen manufacturers he replied that at first there was a panic among the buyers on this side, but he believed that since the tax had been modified the market was steady again. He added that in his view the luxury tax was a good way of setting a limit to the upward tendency of prices and that it acted as a check to the extreme demands of labor as much as to those of capital.



Fire Losses in Ontario for July

Fire losses for July this year in Ontario, are reported by Fire Marshal Heaton, as amounting to \$676.297 as compared with \$1,028,833 in July 1919. Insurance losses are given as amounting to \$551,-301, as compared with \$636,729 in July 1919.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION COMMITTEE IN ENGLAND

The Report of the Committee appointed by the Home Secretary in May of last year to inquire into the system of compensation for injuries to workmen has now been issued.

The Committee, which was presided over by Mr. Holman Gregory, K.C., M.P., considered the desirability of the inauguration of a system of State Insurance, but does not advocate such a scheme, being of the opinion that "employers generally have a preference for private enterprise rather than State management," also that "there is a general feeling among Employers that the administration of Workmen's Compensation by the State must necessarily tend to become rigid in character and slow in mechanism, and that owing to lack of competitive interest it may easily become inefficient and expensive." It recommends instead the continuation of the present, system of insurance through Companies, subject to State supervision. The amendments suggested include largely increased benefits and compulsory insurance.

INFLUENZA DISAPPEARING

Influenza as a cause of death seems to have practically disappeared, the death rate from this cause in May last, per 100,000 lives exposed, as computed by the Metropolitan Life of New York in connection with its industrial department, having been but 25.4, whereas the rate for the entire year 1919 was about ninety-seven. Pneumonia, also, has shown a considerable decline as a cause of mortality. It is notable that in the first four months of 1920, there were forty deaths among industrial policyholders in the Metropolitan Life from wood alcohol incidental to the use of adulterated poisoning On the other hand, in the first three beverages. months of 1919, there were sixty-two deaths from alcoholism in its usual sense, as against but twelve this year. These figures are considered as representing the general experience throughout the country.

\$5,000,000 for Improving Main Highways

The Provincial and Dominion Governments will expend \$5,000,000 this year improving the main highways of Canada. Similar appropriations will be granted annually for the same purpose.

FIRE MANAGER WANTED

British Tariff Company, about' to open in Canada, is prepared to appoint Manager experienced in Fire business and with good organizing powers. Applications invited, stating age, experience, salary required, etc., to

X. Y. Z.,

Care The Chronicle,

Montreal.

WANTED

The Atlas Assurance Company Limited has an immediate opening for an Ontario plan Clerk. Apply, stating experience, to

Mr. Gendron.

WANTED

Experienced young man desires position as Plan or Endorsement Clerk, Address

Clerk.

Care The Chronicle.

Montreal.

WANTED

Book-keeper for a Tariff Fire Insurance Co. Must understand both languages and be well recommended. Address

I. F. U.,

Care The Chronicle,

Montreal. INSTITUTE OF ACTUARIES STAPLE INN HALL, LONDON. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN-That the Examinations of the Institute of Actu-aries will be held from Monday, 13 December to Wednesday, 15 December, 1920, inclusive. 2. That Candidates presenting themselves for the first time for Part 1 of the Examinations must make application for admission as Students of the Institute on the form to be obtained from the Local Supervisor, and remit the Application Fee of £1 1 0, in addiiton to the Examination Fee. That all applications of Candidates for Examina-3. tion, and all remittances from them, should reach the Hon. Secretaries in London not later than 13 October, 1920. H. M. TROUNCER, A. O. THORNE, Hon. Secs. (By Order) ARTHUR B. WOOD, F.I.A. Hon. Supervisor in Montreal. **Canadian Banking Practice** On Sale

By The Chronicle



PERSONALS

Mr. Owen D. Jones, general manager of the North British & Mercantile Insurance Company, arrived in Montreal this week. He is at present visiting important Agencies of the Company in the West accompanied by Mr. Randall Davidson, manager for Canada.

British Columbia will have one of the largest power sites in the world, when the projected \$30,000,000 development of the Bridge River is carried out.

Mr. F. W. P. Rutter, general manager London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Co. is expected to visit Canada during the present month.

Mr. George Chappell, general manager of the Royal Insurance Company, is expected to visit Canada sometime this month.

PROFITEERING

Conditions seem to point to organized effort to keep up prices in not a few directrons. The fact that large crop yields promise but little in the way of immediate lowering of prices for food at retail is a sore subject with many consumers. Labor especially is clearly irritated at the fact that though it has succeeded in enforcing its own demands in money wages they have profited it little, due to the fact that prices have risen sufficiently to take much of the increase in purchasing power.

The time has come to recognize that profiteering is not solely the result of wilful and unfair effort on the part of individuals to exact a tribute from the community but is the outcome of conditions which have been established in some cases by law and which permit or, in other cases, dictate high prices for goods. Of these conditions the most fundamental is possibly the present system of taxation. Excess profits taxes are responsible for no small portion of the shortage of goods which exists in many directions and are thus the cause of numerons instances of overcharge. Excessive freight rates, while in many cases constituting only a small fraction of the retail price of goods, are, nevertheless, an important influence in the price of heavy commodities like coal.

No doubt there has been a good deal of wilful "jacking up" of prices without good reason. This has been effected in some cases by the use of machinery which was started during the war, through the establishment of trade understandings, and the use of commercial mechanisms of various sorts which may have had a desirable purpose then but has none now.

PLAYING THE GAME

By B. C. Forbes, in Forbes Magazine Business is as much a game as golf or baseball or football.

Life itself is aptly likened to a game.

To win, to earn and enjoy the fruits of victory, you must play fair.

A cup or medal or other trophy is not the real prize the victor receives; the real prize, the real reward, is the satisfaction derived from superior, worthy achievement.

Wealth is not the real prize of life, it is only a trophy, a symbol, and may carry with it no satisfaction; indeed it does not carry with it genuine, lasting satisfaction unless it has been won fairly, honestly, honorably.

The more I see of rich men and the closer my insight into the workings of their minds and hearts, the more strongly convinced do I become that great wealth is no passport to happiness nor proof of true success.

It is an old truth, but it needs preaching every sunrise, so many do not know it, or, knowing it, do not heed it. If they could only be made to understand, if they could only see things in their true colors, if they could only peer into the hearts of many millionaires, they would order their lives more rationally and enjoy life more thoroughly.

To win out you must play the game every time.

'Look at So-and-So; he has everything he wants, yet everybody knows that he made his money by shady practices,'' you may reply.

Don't fool yourself that So-and-So has everything he wants. Do you imagine that he doesn't know how you and other people regard him? And do not think for a moment that he enjoys being looked at askance, or that he wouldn't exchange most of his ill-gotten gains to stand high with you and other people—and to stand high with himself.

There have been wholesale efforts to reap more than has been sown, to get more than has been earned, to tilt the scales unduly.

Sooner or later the profiteers and labor slackers will get their just reward.

The call is for the fellows who can be depended upon, under any and all circumstances, to play the game.

The things that count are the things that last. Playing the game lasts.

Many Fires Caused by Lightning

While lightning is always a factor in farm insurance during the summer months, fires from this cause have been unusually numerous during the past few weeks in Canada, due to the many electrical storms in various parts of the country.

