FIRE PREMIUMS AND LOSSES IN CANADA, 1919

The business of fire companies operating in Canada in 1919 with a comparative table for 1918 are published detail in this issue, together with their Canadian loss experience since 1913.

The volume of business transacted by the fire Companies in 1918 was the largest in the history of Canada up to and including that year. It will be seen, however, by the following figures showing in brief form the results recorded from official figures by the Dominion licensed Companies, that another record has been established (by results) in volume of business for 1919:—

	1918	1919
Net premiums . . .	$35,954,405	$39,912,398
Losses incurred.	18,204,160	16,766,371
Percentages losses to premiums. . .	50.63	42.01

As will bt noted the year 1919 was preeminently an unusually favourable year to the fire business in Canada, and was one of the most profitable of the whole fifty years over which the government figures extend. This to some extent will offset, the adverse experience of many previous years. The substantial increase of approximately $4,000,000 in net premiums while partly due to natural growth, is also largely the result of increase in values.

The Canadian Companies report an income of $6,398,098 in net premiums, compared with $5,570,095, an increase of $828,003, while the British Companies increased their incomes from $18,658,710 to $20,383,117, an increase of $1,724,407. The American and French Companies advanced from $11,725,600 to $13,131,183, an increase of $1,405,583. The substantial increase in volume of business which is reported year by year as being transacted by British Companies, continues, notwithstanding the ever increasing competition for business, and in view of the large and increasing number of other Companies which have entered the Canadian field. Last year fifty-four American and French Companies are included in the table of results published in this issue, compared with thirty-seven British Companies and thirty-three Canadian Companies.

The Loss Ratio.

The loss ratio of 1919 is over nine points lower than that recorded for 1918. In 1918 the British Companies had a loss ratio of 50.03 per cent. The year 1919 might be recorded as the most favourable in the history of British Companies in Canada when the loss ratio was reduced to 42.34 per cent. The British Companies net losses incurred in the Canadian field in 1919 amounted to $8,639 376, as compared with $9,334,298 in 1918. The net result for both years combined will have more satisfactory scope for the payment of the ever increasing taxes and expenses, and provision for the necessary increase in reserves.

The American and French Companies incurred net losses of $5,485,974, compared with $6,314,940 in 1918, the loss ratio being the lowest on record for these institutions at 41.78 per cent., comparing with 53.86 in 1918. The Canadian Companies with a loss ratio of 41.28 per cent., compares with 45.87 per cent. in 1918, their net losses incurred for 1919 were $2,641,021, as compared with $2,554,922 in 1918.

In 1918 eight Companies had Canadian premium incomes in exceess of a million dollars, compared with seven in 1917 and four in 1916. Last year, however, the number under this heading has been advanced to nine by the addition of the Northern Assurance Co. Limited with a net income of $1,050,101. The other Companies in order of income bei g the Royal $1,764,826, Guardian, $1,433,698, Home, $1,401,820, Liverpool & London & Globe, $1,373,487, Commercial Union, $1,188,574, Hartford, $1,178,181, Phoenix of London, $1,145,616, and the North British & Mercantile, $1,079,632.

The additional table summarizing the loss record of the whole of the Companies for the past twenty-two years, shows briefly, the course of the fire insurance business during that period, only in four of the twenty-two years has the loss ratio of the Companies fallen below 50 per cent.

Climatic conditions, in Canada are an important factor in fire losses which cannot be removed. It is hoped, however, that the efforts being made in Fire Prevention by the Government and others will assist in the removal of many causes of fires. Although judging by the large numbers of serious fires which have been reported lately during 1920, the results of such efforts are decidedly discouraging.

DEATH OF MR, ELIAS ROGERS PRESIDENT NATIONAL LIFE

The death of Mr. Elias Rogers on the 11th inst., President of the National Life Asssurance Company since its inception, removed from the business life of Toronto a prominent figure. His business interests were wide and varied, he was a director of the National Trust Co., Vice-President of the Imperial Bank, director of the Imperial Guarantee, the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, President of the M. F. and M. Railway, President of the Electric Light and Power Company, B. C., and connected with various other enterprises. The deceased gentleman was greatly esteemed in the community by a large circle of friends.