

THE NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The eighty-sixth annual meeting of the above Company was held at Edinburgh on the 8th May. The business of the year in the Fire Department left a surplus in excess of the average in preceding four years. The premium income reached the large sum of \$7,392,000, after deducting re-insurances. This is \$190,000 more than the premium income in 1894, and the largest recorded in the history of this very substantial, and popular company. The losses, after deducting re-insurances, were \$4,364,850, a ratio of 59.05 of the premiums. Although a small percentage larger than the loss ratio of 1894, it is some 8 per cent. less than the average of those of 1891, '92 and '93, the latter year having gone as high as 72.5. It is very gratifying to find the business for Canada ranking up to the average of the Company's all over the world wide field. Out of the thirty-five fire insurance companies operating in Canada, the loss ratios of thirty-one exceeded those of the North British and Mercantile, the average of all the British companies being 71.55, and of the American companies 75.08. In regard also to expenses the North British conducted its business with a lower percentage of general expenses to premiums received than twenty-eight of the companies out of thirty-five. Its ratio of expenses to premiums received was 27.39 against an average for all the British companies of 28.50, and of the American companies of 30.37. The amount of risks taken in Canada during the year was \$39,118,545, the premiums on which were \$457,116. The Company appears to have been reducing its expenses in view of the loss ratios having increased in the last five years, an experience shared with all other fire insurance companies, the North British, however, having less to complain of in this respect than others. The total Assets of the company in Canada amount to \$5,564,200. The Fire Funds of the North British, including paid-up Capital, amount to \$15,027,300. The Reserve of the Fire Department is \$7,750,000, and the Premium Reserve \$2,956,000. The total funds of the North British at 31st December, 1895, after providing for dividend and bonus, and including fire, life and annuity funds, amount to the magnificent total of \$60,996,000. The total Assets owned by the Company are \$65,157,780. The Company is especially distinguished by having His Excellency the Governor General as one of its Directors, also, the Viceroy and Governor General of India. These, however, although an assurance to the public of the stability of the North British, would not ensure its prosperity; that can only result from skilful, energetic and careful management, in which respect the Company is in a highly favored position for continued success. In Canada the Company has the highest reputation for its honorable, liberal and prompt dealings with its policy-holders. Its eminent position and prestige are well upheld by its representative here, Mr. Thomas Davidson, Managing Director; Mr. Randall Davidson, Superintendent, as well as by Mr. McDonald, the Secretary, and other officials of this leading fire insurance Company.

FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR MAY, 1896.

Date, 1896.	Location.	Occupation.	Total Loss.	Insurance Loss.
May 2	Toronto	Dwellings	\$6,000	\$ 5,000
" 4	London	Dw'ling & Barns	8,000	8,000
" 3	Brampton	Hall	1,000	1,000
" 4	Tsp. Chatham	Farm buildings	3,000	2,200
" 2	St. Catharines	Stables	1,500	nil.
" 5	Bass River, N.S.	Dwelling	5,000	3,000
" 4	Lindsay	Steamer	3,000	1,200
" 1	Tsp. Tiny	Cheese factory	1,500	1,100
" 7	Toronto	Warehouse	8,000	8,000
" 6	Stoney Point	Flour mill	6,000	2,300
" 2	Gananoque	Stores	3,000	2,500
" 5	Hamilton	Foundry	1,100	1,100
" 6	South Durham	Stores	4,000	4,000
" 8	Toronto	Bicycle rim fac'y	3,000	2,500
" 7	Bethany	Planing mill	2,000	nil.
" 8	Renfrew	Saw mill & st'ch's	5,000	nil.
" 9	Tsp. Keppel	Shingle mill	1,500	nil.
" 11	Port Hope	Dwellings	3,000	2,000
" 11	Chambly Basin	Store	2,300	2,300
" 10	Petrolia	Store	4,000	3,600
" 11	Hawkesbury	Saw mills, (W.P.)	50,000	25,000
" 9	Warren	Saw mill	50,000	40,000
" 8	Katrine	Saw mill	56,000	43,000
" 8	Berthier	Dwelling	7,000	6,000
" 12	Wawauesca	Hotel	10,000	7,000
" 14	Montibello	Steamer	8,000	5,000
" 3	Hastings, B.C.	Shingle mill	20,000	5,100
" 14	Peterboro	Fl'r & oatm'l mls	50,000	56,000
" 17	Sarnia	Fl'r & oatm'l mls	75,000	20,000
" 17	St. Catharines	Steamer	2,000	2,000
" 17	Owen Sound	Dwelling	3,500	1,500
" 17	Stratford	Brick yard	3,000	nil.
" 9	Bethany	Dwelling	2,500	1,800
" 20	Pictou	Dwelling	4,500	3,000
" 20	Barrie	Flour mill	5,000	1,500
" 11	Winnipeg	Dwellings	20,000	12,500
" 22	Treherne	Elevator	12,000	12,000
" 25	Ottawa	Hotel	2,500	1,200
" 23	Parrsboro, N.S.	Clubhouse	1,500	1,000
" 22	L'Ange Gardien	Dwelling	3,000	2,400
" 23	Mechanicsville	Dwellings	6,000	4,000
" 25	Diseronto	Conflagration	250,000	145,000
" 25	Hamilton Beach	Dwelling	5,000	2,800
" 26	Coaticook	Carriage shop	2,000	1,900
" 25	Elora	Furniture factory	10,000	8,000
" 27	St. Hyacinthe	Tannery & dwlgs	30,000	13,000
" 25	Markham	Barns	1,500	1,000
" 28	Toronto	Store	2,000	2,000
" 28	Kingsville	Flour mill	22,000	6,000
" 29	Aylmer	Saw mill (S.P.)	8,000	3,000
" 28	Bodney	Barns	1,000	1,000
" 31	Toronto	Stores	2,000	2,000
" 29	Toronto	Stores	2,000	1,600
" 29	Fort William	Commere'l block	3,000	2,500
" 29	Rapid City	Store	3,000	3,000
" 30	Belleville	Dwelling	1,000	1,000
" 31	Oshawa	Hotel	3,000	2,500
" 30	Dresden	Flour mill	1,800	1,800
" 25	Tsp. Floss	Farm buildings	1,000	1,000
" 25	Tsp. Innisfil	Farm buildings	1,500	1,000
" 27	Tsp. Bayham	Dwelling	1,000	1,000
Totals..			\$915,200	\$500,700

Add 20 percent. for unreported losses and losses under \$1000. 183,040 100,140

Totals.....\$1,098,240 \$600,840

SUMMARY FOR FIVE MONTHS.

	1895.		1896.	
	Total Loss.	Ins. Loss.	Total Loss.	Ins. Loss.
For January.....	\$ 1,970,760	\$ 1,438,280	\$ 422,400	\$ 263,880
" February.....	1,543,320	1,009,920	378,480	288,720
" March.....	1,073,760	880,560	418,200	292,680
" April.....	823,800	246,960	693,840	408,000
" May.....	457,080	246,240	1,098,240	600,840
Totals.....	\$ 3,200,040	\$ 1,599,160	\$ 3,011,160	\$ 1,854,120