

THE HOME OF NEW YORK.

"The largest fire insurance company on the Continent," as the famous old Home Insurance Company of New York is able to describe itself, sets forth a splendid financial position in its one-hundred and twenty-ninth semi-annual statement of affairs, as at January 1st, 1918. With cash assets of \$44,048,652, there is a net surplus over all liabilities, including \$6,000,000 paid-up capital, of \$13,001,251, the surplus to policyholders being accordingly \$19,001,251. Backing up this fine financial showing is the intangible, but extremely valuable asset of a high reputation for satisfactory service to policyholders, won by many years' straightforward and honorable transaction of business.

The Home, whose veteran president, Mr. Elbridge G. Snow, takes rank as the *doyen* of American fire company executives, transacts, in addition to fire business, sprinkler-leakage, automobile, war-risk, wind-storm and hail insurance. Represented throughout the Continent by a numerous and well-selected agency force, the Home transacts annually an extensive business all over the Dominion. Established in the Canadian field since 1902, with Mr. Fred. W. Evans, of Montreal, as its chief agent, the Home takes high rank among the leading fire organisations in the extent of its business in Canada, and has won for itself, among Canadian insurers, the reputation which probity and adequate service alone can give. By subscription to war loans, the Home showed itself as in sympathy with Canadian ideals, prior to the developments of the last twelve months, and to the recent Victory Loan it subscribed \$250,000.

PREFERRED ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK ENTERS CANADA.

The Preferred Accident Insurance Company, of New York, having complied with the necessary Government requirements at Ottawa, will commence operations in Canada immediately, with head office in Toronto. Mr. J. W. Mackenzie, late joint manager of the Canada Accident, has been appointed general manager for Canada.

The Preferred has a high reputation in the United States. Its policy, since its organization in 1886, has been to insure only preferred accident business, enabling the Company to issue an attractive policy for that class of risk. In addition to accident business this Company will write health and automobile insurance. At December 31st, 1917, its assets amounted to \$4,657,672, with a surplus and voluntary reserve of \$1,464,786, or over double its paid-up capital of \$700,000. Since organization the Company has paid in losses \$12,500,000.

LONDON ASSURANCE MAKES NEW ACQUISITION.

The London Assurance Corporation has purchased, as a going concern, the British Law Fire Insurance Company, Ltd., of London, which will be continued on the same lines as hitherto, the directors, local directors, management and branch officers and staff being retained. Shareholders of the British Law Fire will be paid partly in War Loan, and partly in shares of the London Assurance. The British Law Fire dates from 1888 and transacts fire and numerous branches of casualty business.

BRITISH AND CANADIAN FIRE LOSS IN 1917: A CONTRAST.

The cost of the principal fires in the United Kingdom during the past year, says the London Times, may be estimated at £4,066,900, which compares with losses of £3,300,400 in 1916 and £4,205,100 in 1915. Owing, however, to the conditions prevailing, reports of fires have not been published as freely during the past three years as before the war, and the estimate, therefore, errs probably on the side of moderation; also only fires are taken into account in the calculation in which the damage amounted to £1,000 or more, and, in the aggregate, the small fires represent a very large sum.

The fire loss of Canada in 1917 is estimated by the Commission of Conservation at around \$25,000,000. So that, when every possible allowance has been made for the factors to which the London Times refers, the probabilities are that the 1917 British fire loss, including fires caused by air-raids, was little larger than that of Canada, though the population is seven to eight times as large. In other words, the *per capita* fire loss in Great Britain and Ireland last year, in spite of war losses, was one-seventh to one-eighth the Canadian loss.

The character of construction and climate have, no doubt, a good deal to do with this striking difference in proportionate waste of wealth and resources. The Canadian carelessness hazard is, however, by no means an unimportant factor.

A Maritime Province Pond of the Blue Goose has been organized at St. John, N.B. This gives a chain of ponds all the way across Canada.

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