FIRE INSURANCE IN ONTARIO

Mutual Companies' Returns Show Gross Amount at Risk Amounting to $340,893,498

There are seventy purely mutual companies transacting business in the province of Ontario under license from the insurance department. The following comparative table will show the business transacted by the seventy companies during the year 1916 and 1915:—

	1916.	1915.
Average assets	$ 145,874.42	$ 139,792.66
Average liabilities	687.89	448.95
Average surplus	192,425.40	139,343.70
Average net amount at risk	4,316,394.60	4,126,586.46
Percentage—average surplus to average amount at risk	4.458	3.376
Average cost management	1,894.83	1,776.90
Percentage—average cost management to average amount at risk	.0439	.0430
Average amount paid for losses	7,676.16	6,379.33
Percentage—average amount paid for losses to average amount at risk	.177	.154
Total percentage—average cost management to average amount at risk; and of average amount paid for losses to average amount at risk	.2217	.1970
Average cost of insurance per annum per $100 of insurance (70 purely mutual)	.2217 = 22 17/100c.	.1970 = 19 70/100c.

Total amount paid for losses (purely mutual) in last 30 years, 1887-1916, $8,198,514.83.

Assets.

	1916.	1915.
Real estate	$ 13,200	$ 13,200
Mortgages	585,438	549,332
Cash	370,735	377,585
Residue notes	9,199,124	8,799,787
Interest accrued	9,990	9,812
Total assets	10,211,209	9,785,510

Liabilities.

	1916.	1915.
*Losses (unpaid)	$ 20,451	$ 9,286
†Losses (unpaid)	6,530	8,128
Borrowed money (notes)	20,225	13,068
Total liabilities	48,152	31,776
Net amount at risk, less reinsurance	302,147,622	288,858,552
Number of policies purely mutual	142,333	139,445

*Reported. †Adjusted.

Net Income.

	1916.	1915.
Interest	$ 41,693	$ 36,198
Borrowed money	24,335	29,760
Fixed payments	511,246	477,713
Assessments	130,752	124,191
Prior payments	14,821	16,158
Prior assessments	8,563	10,703
Agent's balance	1,759	1,131
Reinsurance, fire losses	2,598	1,410
Total receipts	744,422	704,377

Expenditure.

	1916.	1915.
Expenses of management	$ 132,638	$ 124,821
Losses	537,331	446,553
Repayment loan	16,923	36,034
Total	716,098	628,629

Mutual Companies—All Classes—80 Companies.

	1916.	1915.
Gross amount at risk on mutual plan	$340,893,498	$327,364,716
Premium notes, net, unassessed	10,113,016	9,756,638
Surplus of general assets over liabilities	13,469,778	13,036,756
New business taken during 1916-15	120,493,492	113,831,129
Premium notes taken during year 1916-15	4,223,339	4,053,987

Cash Mutual and Stock Companies.

There are ten cash mutual companies licensed to transact business in the province. These companies do business both on the cash plan and on the mutual or premium note plan. From the statements furnished the department it is found that the year 1916 was favorable to the companies. The following summary will show the business transacted: Assets, $4,033,954; liabilities, $727,232; receipts, $1,494,097; expenditures, $1,429,608; expenses, management, $397,040; losses (paid), $673,980; number of policies in force, $207,482; net insurance in force, $174,549,332.

Four joint stock fire companies are licensed to transact business in the province and the report of their business for the year 1916 is as follows: Assets, $1,109,726; liabilities (except capital stock), $576,602; income, $1,341,307; expenditure, $1,239,946; expenses, management, $385,147; losses paid, $707,463; number of policies, $106,801; net amount at risk, $97,461,751.

Three Weather Insurance Companies.

Three weather insurance companies transact business against loss by wind storms and tornadoes. These are purely mutual companies and have been exceptionally successful during the short time they have been in business. The following statement for the year 1916, compared with that of 1915, is herewith submitted:—

Assets.

	1916.	1915.
Mortgages, etc.	$ 25,000.00	$ 10,500.00
Cash	28,888.92	26,646.10
Payments due in 1916 (unpaid)	5,445.10	5,242.04
Total premium note residue	432,880.58	425,442.62
Total assets	492,214.60	467,830.76

Liabilities.—None.—Number of policies in force, 1916, 14,503; number of policies in force, 1915, 15,593; net amount at risk, 1916, $17,597,764; net amount at risk, 1915, $18,499,570.

The companies' receipts were:—

	1916.	1915.
From payments	$ 33,181	$ 34,336
Prior payments	4,992	3,765
Interest	1,221	673
Total receipts	39,708	39,109

And the expenditures:—

	1916.	1915.
Commission	$ 3,934	$ 2,304
Total cost of management	13,657	10,776
Losses	8,931	4,050
Total expenditure	22,963	18,495

BRITISH TRADE BANK TO BEGIN OPERATIONS SOON

Lord Faringdon will probably be the first chairman of the British Trade Bank, which will be formed shortly by special charter. Its capital will likely be £50,000,000, of which only a small amount will be called at first.

It is probable that the bank will not accept deposits at call or withdrawal on short notice, and will open current accounts only for parties needing overseas facilities. The new bank will devote itself specially to foreign exchange and credits to assist British trade.

The city of New Westminster was allotted $85,000 out of an application for $100,000 of the Dominion war loan, so the city council decided to invest the remaining $15,000 in the same issue, purchased from private parties at 96¼.