

FORTY YEARS' FIRE UNDERWRITING.

In its fortieth anniversary number, issued a short time ago, our contemporary, the *Argus* of Chicago, gives the results of the business during the last forty years of twenty-nine companies who were involved in the famous Chicago conflagration of 1871, and who have been engaged in business in the United States without a break ever since. Over two hundred companies were involved in the Chicago fire, but only thirty-four of these survive, five of which are excluded from the present table, for various reasons.

These figures are eloquent of the poor results, from the profits' point of view, which have been achieved by companies operating in the United States field and they corroborate the figures on this subject which appeared in these columns a short time ago, compiled by Mr. J. D. Browne, president of the Connecticut Fire Insurance Company. A profit of \$41,000,000 on premiums of \$2,243,000,000 or only 1.82 p.c. can hardly be regarded as excessive by even the most bitter opponent of the fire companies or the most enthusiastic apostle of "cheap insurance." The figures will repay careful study. For convenience, we summarise them as follows:—

Premiums received.....	\$2,243,365,041
Losses paid.....	1,301,397,448
Management expense.....	780,666,389
Increase in liabilities.....	120,406,753
Total underwriting charges.....	2,202,470,590
Underwriting profit.....	40,894,451
Profit percentage.....	1.82

INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS IN OCTOBER.

Industrial accidents occurring to 344 individual work people in Canada during the month of October, 1911, were reported to the Department of Labour.

Of these, 101 were fatal and 243 resulted in serious injuries. In addition seven fatal accidents were reported as having taken place prior to the beginning of the month, information not having been received by the Department before October, 1911. In the preceding month there were fifty-eight fatal and 122 non-fatal accidents reported, a total of 180, and in October, 1910, there were 115 fatal and 205 non-fatal accidents, a total of 390. The number of fatal accidents reported in October, 1911, was, therefore, forty-three more than in the preceding month, and fourteen less than in October, 1910. The number of non-fatal accidents reported in October, 1911, was 121 more than in the preceding month, and thirty-two less than in October, 1910. Altogether there were 164 industrial accidents reported in October, 1911, more than in the preceding month, and forty-six less than in the same month of the preceding year.

STATEMENT OF ACCIDENTS DURING OCTOBER, 1911, BY INDUSTRIES AND TRADES.

Trade or Industry.	Killed.	Injured.	Total.
Agriculture	21	25	46
Fishing and hunting	1	...	1
Lumbering	6	10	16
Mining	4	5	9
Building trades	10	39	49
Metal trades	5	38	43
Woodworking trades .....	...	13	13
Clothing trades .....	...	1	1
Textile trades .....	...	1	1
Food and tobacco preparation ..	1	5	6
Leather trades .....	...	1	1
Railway service	18	38	56
Railway construction	6	11	17
Navigation	2	3	5
General transport	9	23	32
Civic employes	1	6	7
Miscellaneous	11	10	21
Unskilled labour	6	14	20
Total	101	243	344

AGGREGATE RESULTS OF FORTY YEARS UNDERWRITING (1871-1910, INCLUSIVE).

(Argus, Chicago).

	Premiums Received.	Losses Paid.	Management Expense.	Increase in Liabilities.	Total Underwriting Charges.	Underwriting + Profit - Loss.	Profit - Loss Percent.
Aetna	\$162,997,948	\$ 95,341,502	\$54,332,649	\$ 6,598,900	\$156,273,051	\$ + 6,724,897	+ 4.12
American, N. J.	37,559,655	17,940,041	14,640,465	5,284,115	37,864,621	-324,966	-0.87
American Central	37,945,537	22,173,641	13,659,393	2,774,327	38,607,361	-661,824	-1.74
Buffalo German	15,298,730	7,954,660	6,119,492	687,727	14,761,879	+ 536,851	+ 3.51
Citizens	8,506,234	4,861,200	3,232,368	488,888	8,582,456	-76,222	-0.90
Commerce	6,087,054	3,802,183	2,434,821	81,284	6,318,288	-231,234	-3.80
Commercial Union	92,475,536	55,627,343	30,825,178	4,861,968	91,314,489	+ 1,161,047	+ 1.25
Continental	135,967,982	72,956,304	50,308,153	8,466,697	131,731,154	+ 4,236,828	+ 3.11
Detroit F. & M.	10,887,345	6,113,836	4,028,317	503,463	10,645,616	+ 241,729	+ 2.21
Firemen's	21,141,991	9,830,298	7,611,116	2,184,182	19,625,596	+ 1,516,395	+ 7.16
Fireman's Fund	71,848,197	44,277,206	25,146,868	3,995,994	73,420,068	-1,571,871	-2.19
Franklin	28,223,510	17,678,540	12,136,109	495,600	30,310,249	-2,086,739	-7.40
Germania	55,740,380	29,514,070	21,181,344	3,253,900	53,949,314	+ 1,791,066	+ 3.21
Girard F. & M.	18,008,943	8,508,793	8,104,024	1,518,398	18,131,215	-122,272	-0.68
Glens Falls	30,810,211	16,429,720	11,707,880	2,187,845	30,325,445	+ 484,766	+ 1.57
Hanover	57,389,098	33,860,080	22,381,748	2,236,805	58,478,633	-1,089,535	-1.89
Hartford Fire	222,321,560	130,069,267	77,812,546	14,303,727	222,185,540	+ 136,020	+ 0.06
Home	204,940,905	113,211,053	71,729,316	11,782,749	196,723,118	+ 8,217,787	+ 4.01
Ins. Co. of N. A.	199,137,385	130,328,248	59,741,215	7,073,481	197,142,944	+ 1,994,441	+ 1.00
Liv. & Lon. & Globe ..	188,021,912	114,570,635	57,286,792	7,000,643	178,858,070	+ 9,163,842	+ 4.87
Niagara	63,747,480	37,552,982	24,224,042	2,913,940	64,690,964	-1,943,484	-1.48
No. Brit. & Mercantile ..	96,440,012	60,266,153	32,113,337	4,016,628	96,396,118	+ 43,894	+ 0.04
Northwestern Nat.	33,383,146	15,292,754	14,020,921	3,379,493	32,693,168	+ 689,978	+ 2.07
Pacific	10,572,045	5,962,347	3,524,015	244,198	9,730,560	+ 841,485	+ 8.01
Phoenix, Conn.	107,816,635	59,268,239	38,813,988	4,565,463	102,647,690	+ 5,168,945	+ 4.79
Royal	151,973,621	88,461,575	50,657,874	8,269,974	147,389,423	+ 4,584,198	+ 3.02
St. Paul F. & M.	63,818,361	38,396,639	21,272,787	4,444,262	64,113,988	-295,627	-0.46
Springfield F. & M.	81,707,546	46,158,292	29,414,716	5,016,020	80,589,028	+ 1,118,518	+ 1.37
Williamsburgh City	28,616,082	14,989,547	12,204,915	1,776,082	28,970,544	-354,462	-1.24
Total, 29 Companies	\$2,243,365,041	\$1,301,397,448	\$780,666,389	\$120,406,753	\$2,202,470,590	+ \$40,894,451	+ 1.82