

FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA, 1912.

Figures shown in Preliminary Report of Department of Insurance—A More Favorable Year than 1911.

As we go to press, we are in receipt of a copy of the preliminary report of the Dominion Department of Insurance covering the business of 1912. At the present, a few of the leading figures regarding the fire business of the year must suffice; the exclusive statistics which are annually compiled by THE CHRONICLE from the Government figures will follow in due course.

The statistics now given would seem to show that for the fire companies as a whole, 1912, was a slightly more favorable year than 1911. There was again a very large increase in the business transacted. Gross risks taken by all companies during the year aggregated \$2,374,261,732, an increase approaching \$400,000,000 over the figures recorded for 1911. The totals in respect of the various classes of companies are as follows:—Canadian, \$653,582,426; British, \$1,148,396,318; American and French companies, \$572,282,988.

RESULTS OF 1912.

The following are in brief the results achieved by the various classes of companies last year:—

Canadian companies received net premiums of \$5,063,409 and incurred net losses of \$2,586,805, a ratio of 51.09 per cent. This compares with net premiums of \$4,727,141, net losses incurred of \$2,509,377 and a ratio of 53.08 in 1911.

British companies received net premiums of \$12,092,125 and incurred net losses of \$6,151,121, a ratio of 50.87 p.c. This compares with net premiums of \$11,205,694, net losses incurred of \$6,029,035 and a ratio of 53.80 in 1911.

American and other companies received net premiums of \$6,038,984 and incurred net losses of \$3,033,510, a ratio of 50.23 p.c. This compares with net premiums of \$4,642,420, net losses incurred of \$2,272,517, and a ratio of 48.95 in 1911.

The whole of the companies received net premiums of \$23,194,518, and incurred net losses of \$11,771,436, a ratio of 50.75 p.c. This compares with net premiums of \$20,575,255, net losses incurred of \$10,810,929, and a ratio of 52.54 in 1911.

In the case of each class of companies, there is again a fall in the rate of premiums charged per cent. of risks taken.

The Canadian Railway Accident Insurance Company, of Montreal, has appointed Mr. Robert Welch as assistant manager. The General Manager (Mr. John Emo), informs us that Mr. Welch is a man of twenty years' practical experience in the casualty business and he will no doubt, prove a valuable addition to the executive staff of the Company.

Mr. Alexander Mackey, general manager of the Law Union and Rock Insurance Company of London is spending some time in the United States.

**COMPULSORY INSURANCE IN GREAT BRITAIN:
A FRANK CRITICISM.**

A strongly phrased editorial in the London *Insurance Record* regarding the National Insurance Act in Great Britain confirms the impression that this experiment in state insurance is not the striking success which the various political communications sent over to this side regarding it acclaim that it is. Commenting upon a recent statement by the Prime Minister that experience had suggested some amendments to the Act, our contemporary says:—"That the Act is not viewed with favour by the mass of the population is becoming more and more apparent, even to its hard and fast apologists; but if, as has been stated, the amendments to be introduced on behalf of the Government are confined to giving fresh advantages to Ireland, to altering the provisions relating to casual labour and providing a reduced scale of benefit for this latter class, it is obvious that only a very little will have been done towards making compulsory insurance generally acceptable. Consequent perhaps upon disastrous experiences at the polls, the outspoken criticism of the Act at the recent Friendly Society Conferences and elsewhere, the obvious exasperation of employers of labour at the endless irritations and worries with which they are visited, not to mention the resentment of the majority of the workers to a deduction from their wages, there have just recently been a succession of reluctant admissions from prominent members of the Government that all is not well."

COMPULSORY GOOD SAMARITANISM.

"The Chancellor of the Exchequer," proceeds our contemporary, "has very considerably modified the transports in which he has hitherto been wont to indulge when referring to the measure which was to assist in making a new Heaven and a new earth for the struggling workers. The description of the Act as a species of 'rare and refreshing fruits' of the 4d. for 4d. brand not appearing to find favour with the multitude, Mr. George has now arrived at the conclusion, as expressed in a speech at Criccieth on Sunday last, that it really is a plan for enabling the people to bear each other's burdens. The poor have long been noted for the kindness they show towards each other, but their acts of mercy have been voluntarily performed. To be compelled to assume the character of a good Samaritan, under the threat of a substantial penalty, is a different matter entirely. Moreover, it is not at all proved to the satisfaction of those who find themselves saddled with an additional burden that their self-sacrifice is for the benefit of their fellows. Certainly it must come as a rude awakening to them to be told by the sponsor of the Insurance Act that this measure, which he had previously led them to believe was to be of great advantage to all, is merely intended to compel one to help another.

NOT TO PEOPLE'S LIKING.

"That compulsory insurance is not to the liking of British people," continues the *Record*, "is certain, and although Mr. George affects to believe that the Act is working out all right—'It has had a rough winter; but that is over. There is soon to be an outburst of splendid summer,'—it is satisfactory to know that the need for its amendment is considered imperative by those in high places. When the Government give