# The Insurance Chronicle

November 16, 1907.

## INSURANCE IN CANADA.

The report for 1906 of the Canadian Insurance Superintendent is a portly one, containing 931 pages, compared with 780 in the 1904 volume. The number of companies reporting to the Department has increased. There are 43 fire insurance companies: 15 Canadian, 17 British, and 11 American; 64 life companies: 24 Canadian, 16 American, and 14 British, though of the British only 9, and of the American companies only 12 take new business. Then there are accident, employers' liability, guarantee, sickness, marine, burglary, plate glass, steam boiler, contract, and personal property companies to the number of 13 or more.

Turning, first, to the condensed record of fire underwriting, the cash taken for premiums in this branch last year amounted to $14,687,963 as compared with $14,285,671 in 1905. The amount paid for losses was $6,584,291, against $6,000,519 in 1905. The ratio of losses to premiums by the different groups of companies is shown in this table:—

| 1906. | Paid for losses. | Received for premiums. | Losses paid %. | Same for 1905. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canadian companies | $1,602,131 | $3,179,319 | 50.39 | 46.42 |
| British companies | 3,829,244 | 8,601,374 | 44.52 | 42.35 |
| American companies | 1,152,916 | 2,907,270 | 39.66 | 35.95 |
| Total | $6,584,291 | $14,687,963 | 44.83 | 42.00 |

It is thus shown that the American companies suffered the lightest ratio of fire loss and the Canadian the heaviest. Comparison with previous years gives the gratifying result that the two years here compared have imposed upon the companies the smallest ratio of fire loss since the year 1869, with the single exception of 1902, when only 39.26 of the premiums was lost. Indeed, the average since Confederation has been over 66 per cent. per year.

A much larger volume of fire business was done last year, the gross amount of policies being $1,210,099,865, as compared with $1,140,095,372 in 1905. British and Canadian companies each wrote $22,000,000 more, United States companies about $25,000,000. Gross premiums on the $1,210,000,000 were $18,554,730; the ratio per cent. of premiums charged to risks taken being 1.53, as compared with 1.60 in 1904 and 1905, and 1.50 in 1903. The United States companies got the largest ratio of premium in every year.

Canadian fire insurance companies are doing business—or rather they were in 1906—in forty-four States of the American Union, in Newfoundland, India, and Europe.

Inland marine business was disastrous last year, the receipts being $562,415 and the losses $559,133. Ocean marine underwriting was not much better, for the losses incurred were $535,285 against $568,167 in premiums taken.

Turning to the results of life underwriting in the Dominion, by comparison with 1905, the amount of policies written shows a marked falling off. The year's policies in Canada amounted to $95,013,205, while those of 1905 were $105,907,336. The Canadian companies show a decrease of $5,088,888; the American companies a decrease of $6,395,689; the British, an increase of $590,466 in new business. The total in force shows an increase from $630,334,240 in 1905 to $656,260,900. All the groups show increases, but the Canadian by far the most marked. The amounts of new policies and old are shown in our table, which follows:—

| | New Business. $ | Per Cent. | Total in Force. $ | Per Cent. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Canadian companies | 62,450,253 | 65.72 | 420,864,847 | 64.13 |
| British companies | 4,472,426 | 4.72 | 45,655,951 | 6.96 |
| American companies | 28,090,526 | 29.56 | 189,740,102 | 28.91 |
| Total | 95,013,295 | ..... | 656,260,900 | ..... |

The home companies, therefore, do nearly two-thirds of the life assurance business of Canada, the remaining third being distributed, very unequally, between the American and the British companies. The growth in British companies' business has been slow and irregular these thirty years past; in America it was fairly steady up to 1904, since which it has fallen off; Canadian companies' business, which started to grow in earnest in 1886, has gone up by leaps and bounds in the last twenty years. The amount they now write in foreign fields is large.

Assessment life assurance is done by four companies, three of which transact also sickness and disability assurance on the assessment plan; to these 25 pages are devoted. The total business reported by these is represented by 131,128 certificates for $143,283,750, an increase over 1905 of 8,341 certificates for $6,348,549.

## FIRE AND MARINE NOTES.

A fierce prairie fire swept through the district south of Seine River some days ago, destroying tons of hay, two settlers of St. Anne, east of Winnipeg, being heavy losers.

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A by-law to borrow $6,500 for fire protection purposes was passed on Saturday last by the ratepayers of Langham, Sask.

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At Chesley, Ont., on November 11th, a by-law was voted on and carried to expend thirty-eight thousand dollars on a system of waterworks. Artesian wells will give the supply.

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E. S. Miller, Limited, have been appointed agents in Winnipeg for the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company. The company, we understand, have made a deposit at Ottawa.

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The village of Casselman, near Ottawa, which was practically destroyed by fire in 1897, had a narrow escape from a like fate on Sunday night last. H. V. Landry's general store was gutted and two hotels adjoining it damaged by fire. The loss is placed at $8,000 with $4,000 insurance.

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The completion of the waterworks and high pressure fire protection system at Prince Albert, Sask., has lowered the fire insurance rates. The Board of Trade is informed by the secretary of the Manitoba & Northwestern Underwriters' Association that the reduction will be from 15 to 20 per cent.

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"Underground" fire insurance by United States companies is complained of by Hamilton underwriters: A number of them have waited on Mayor Stewart, asking that a by-law be passed compelling American companies to pay a high license before being allowed to do business in Hamilton. They complain that fire American companies are cutting in on their business by reducing rates, particularly on buildings equipped with sprinkler systems.

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A portable instrument which will test electric wiring at working pressure, is said to have been approved by the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association. It is called the Evershed Megger, and is kept in stock at No. 3 Dineen Building, in Toronto. This appliance has been recommended for fire insurance companies, Government institutions, city engineers and councils and large factories.

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Since the fire-chief of Blind River, Algoma District, Ont., was arrested in connection with the incendiary fires there, was discharged by the magisrate, the fires have not ceased,