LONDON & LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The figures published on another page show that to the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Company, the operations of 1910 produced results of a satisfactory character. In the three departments of fire insurance, accident insurance and marine insurance, business was such as to give a substantial surplus in each case. Fire premiums reached $7,779,000, an advance of nearly $400,000 upon the total of $7,402,880 last year. Losses and expenses amounted to $6,470,430, leaving a surplus of $1,308,570.

Accident premiums were $2,674,725 against $2,576,975 in 1909. Losses and expenses reached $2,558,485, leaving a surplus of $116,240. Marine premiums were $763,255; and losses and expenses, $616,095, so that the balance is $152,160. Together, these three accounts show premiums of $11,221,980, and losses and expenses of $9,645,010, leaving a surplus of $1,576,970. Adding interest on investments, $417,945, there is the handsome surplus on the year's business of $1,994,915.

The total reserve funds of the Company, apart from capital, now reach $12,305,360. The London & Lancashire Fire is well and favorably known in Canada, which field it entered in 1880. Mr. Alfred Wright, of Toronto, is the able manager, and in Montreal, the Company's interests are looked after by Mr. Thomas F. Dobbin, resident secretary of the Province of Quebec. Last year the London and Lancashire Fire wrote in Canada gross risks of $49,404,993. The net cash received during the year for premiums was $542,590 and there was paid out for losses $291,884.

EQUITABLE LIFE OF NEW YORK.

Bill Introduced by New York Insurance Department to Facilitate Mutualisation.

Chairmen Sullivan and Hoey, of the Insurance Committees of the Legislature, this week introduced into the New York Legislature, at Albany, a bill, drafted in the Insurance Department, for the purpose of facilitating the mutualization of the Equitable Life Assurance Society. Such bill has the approval of the Department, of the mutualization committee of the Equitable and of the voting trustees representing J. P. Morgan, the majority holder of the Equitable's stock. The approval is in response to the suggestion of Superintendent Hotchkiss that—though a plan for mutualization has not yet been fully agreed upon—enabling legislation should be asked of the present Legislature.

The bill in form amends two sections of the insurance law, namely: Section 16, by inserting therein an exception to the present rule that insurance corporations cannot acquire or invest in their own stock—this, by authorizing life insurance corporations so to do in case such acquisition is in furtherance of a plan toward mutualization; and Section 95, by making it elastic where it is now thought to be inelastic. The last mentioned section was, in its present form, drafted by the Armstrong Committee. Its constitutionality has, however, been questioned by eminent lawyers. As changed by the bill, it will simply provide that a stock life insurance corporation may become a mutual life insurance corporation by carrying out any plan for the acquisition of its stock which shall be adopted by a majority vote of its directors and approved by a majority vote of its stockholders and a majority vote of its policyholders, at meetings in each case called for the purpose, and also be submitted to the superintendent of insurance and be by him approved in writing. Thus, any of the plans which have been considered heretofore may, if adopted and approved as above stated, be carried through. These two sections in connection with Section 52—which now authorizes the enfranchisement of policyholders—would provide sufficient statutory sanction for the complete mutualization of this great corporation.

The provisions of the bill referred to are largely suggested by the procedure which was taken, with the assistance of similar legislation, to accomplish the mutualization of the Phœnix Mutual Life Insurance Company of Hartford, about 20 years ago. In that case, the then president of the Company owned 1,002 out of 2,000 shares of stock—which, of course, meant control—and was about to dispose of them. The Connecticut Legislature, co-operating with the State Insurance Department and the representatives of the policyholders, passed a law which was, in effect, an amendment of the Company's charter, authorizing the carrying out of a plan whereby, with the approval of the department and policyholders, all of the stock could be acquired and paid for out of the surplus of the Company; the voting power of the same, pending the acquisition of the last share and, thus, the cancellation of all, being vested in the insurance commissioner of that state. As a result, this Company became mutualized, without serious shock, and, though some of the stockholders held out for a considerable period of time, ultimately all shares were purchased and cancelled, and the Company has since been in the hands of its policyholders.

While the problem in the Equitable is magnified many times, owing to its being much larger than the Phœnix Life, it is believed by the Insurance Department that, with the enabling legislation suggested by the bill, a plan can be agreed to and carried out which will, in a reasonably short time, accomplish the same result for the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

MONTREAL CITY AND DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK.

The sixty-fourth annual report of the Montreal City & District Savings Bank shows that this well-known institution enjoyed a considerable expansion in its business during 1910. Net profits for the year were $177,751 against $151,715, in 1909, which, together with the amount brought forward, make a total of $247,378. From this, two dividends have been paid to the shareholders, $100,000 has been carried to the reserve fund, making that fund $1,100,000, and there is a balance at credit of profit and loss of $32,303 to be carried forward to the current year.