

YORKSHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Ranking high among the old-established British insurance companies, the Yorkshire has in recent years notably extended the scale of its operations. It has been the better able thus to enhance the importance of its business through its persistent following for many years of a conservative practice in underwriting that has resulted cumulatively in the acquirement of a magnificently strong position. Assisted by the timely acquirement of smaller companies which have specialised in various branches of the underwriting field for a number of years, the Yorkshire has recently built up a large premium income in many branches of insurance activity and the high order of the business thus acquired is attested by the favourable results which are consistently achieved. These results evidence that the prudence and foresight which guided the Yorkshire while its foundations were soundly established are now, under the direction of Mr. James Hamilton, firmly continued in the larger field.

It may be noted also in passing that the Yorkshire has not been behindhand in answering the present call of King and country. Accompanying the annual report is a list of no fewer than 175 members of the Company's staff who have answered the call—and more than one has already made the supreme sacrifice. The management have arranged for all these that their places should be kept open and that they should suffer no loss of salary in consequence of their enlistment, while those members of the staff remaining and unable to enlist voluntarily have undertaken to keep up the work of their absent colleagues. These facts speak for themselves of the spirit of practical patriotism shown by both the management and the staff of the Yorkshire.

FIRE DEPARTMENT'S SUCCESS.

The fire department retains its importance as the Yorkshire's most extensive business, and last year provided an experience, which if not quite so good as in the two previous years, is yet of a satisfactory character. The net fire premium income was \$2,279,000, a total which marks an advance of nearly \$40,000 upon the fire premiums of 1913, which in turn showed a large advance upon previous years. The loss experience, though not quite so favorable as in 1913 and 1912, in both of which years a ratio of well under 50 per cent. was recorded, was still not unsatisfactory. Losses absorbed \$1,235,745 or 54.2 per cent. of premium income, but little above the average of the last ten years. In a year like 1914, when the large fire offices, generally speaking, were not able to secure results of a very satisfactory character, such results are by no means unfavorable. It is evident, in fact, that in following its policy of expansion, the Yorkshire has kept well in sight the fact that in no business more than fire insurance is quality of more importance than quantity.

A STRONG POSITION.

Commission, expenses and contributions to fire brigades, amounting in all to \$866,025 were a shade higher proportionately than in 1913 at 38.0 per cent. After increasing the reserve for unexpired liabilities to \$911,600, the Yorkshire was able to transfer \$200,455 to profit and loss account as a result of the year's operations in its fire department. In addition to the reserve of \$911,600 against unexpired liabilities, there are available to

meet the claims of the Yorkshire's fire policyholders, a general reserve of \$2,439,425, and a profit and loss account balance of \$382,835, a total of \$3,733,860, equal to over 163 per cent. of last year's premium income, apart from the large paid-up and uncalled capital. A better position than this could not be wished for.

OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

In numerous other departments of the Yorkshire's extensive connections, an increased business was done last year, and a strong financial position is maintained. Employers' liability premium income amounted to \$530,870, claims incurred and provision for claims outstanding absorbing \$270,995. The reserve for unexpired liability is increased to \$212,350 and provision for outstanding claims to \$205,620.

The general insurance account embraces many branches of underwriting, including burglary, live stock, automobile, fidelity, third party, plate glass, boiler, etc. Premium income last year was \$1,542,100, claims paid and outstanding being \$815,915, equal to 52.9 per cent. of premium income, compared with 54.1 per cent. last year. Reserve for unexpired liability is raised to \$548,660 and the carry forward is increased to \$208,765.

THE YORKSHIRE IN CANADA.

The Yorkshire has been operating in the Canadian field since 1907 under the management of Mr. P. M. Wickham, of Montreal. The Yorkshire owns its own building in the heart of the Montreal financial district at 136 St. James Street, and its Canadian business has attained important proportions. Last year its net premiums received in Canada for fire insurance were \$366,753, and net losses incurred, \$239,120.

In addition to its fire business, the Yorkshire has for several years transacted in Canada live stock insurance, it being the only British company licensed by the Dominion Government to carry on this form of insurance in Canada. A Canadian accident department has also been established, transacting personal accident, automobile, employers' liability, general liability and plate glass insurance. With assets of over \$23,000,000 and occupying a strong financial position in every department together with an adequate organisation, the Yorkshire is well equipped to occupy an increasingly important position in Canadian insurance.

MR. H. C. COX ON POLICY LOANS.

In the sixty-eighth annual report of the Canada Life, President Herbert C. Cox, referring to policy loans, remarks:—

"Contributing in a marked degree to ultimate lapse or surrender is the policy loan, one of the standard provisions of all policies defined by the Insurance Act, and of which so much has been said and written. Innocent enough, perhaps, in some premises, it is nevertheless too often the first resort for relief, intended to be only temporary, but only a small percentage of these loans is ever removed before the maturity or cancellation of the policy. Frequently, the first suggestion of lapse comes from the realization that an increased annual payment including premium and interest, must be made for a decreased insurance. Education and reason should do much to lessen this borrowing, and the companies, seized of the menace which it presents, are gradually extending their campaign against it along these lines."