

# FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA FOR 31 YEARS FROM 1869 TO 1899.

Premiums received and losses paid, arranged by Companies.

Name.	Premiums received 1869 to 1899.	Losses paid 1869 to 1899.	Per cent. Losses to Premiums
<i>Canadian Companies.</i>			
British America.....	6,029,122	3,685,995	61.14
Canada Agricultural.....	454,896	290,101	63.76
Canada Fire.....	881,333	698,133	79.22
Canada Fire.....	178,546	63,656	35.66
Citizens'.....	2,856,961	2,287,870	80.08
Dominion.....	190,242	148,255	77.96
Eastern.....	894,194	632,961	70.78
*London Mutual Fire.....	3,632,101	2,597,058	71.50
Mercantile.....	861,704	640,321	74.31
National Fire.....	284,026	287,732	101.31
Ottawa Agricultural.....	194,861	108,164	55.51
Provincial.....	1,434,350	957,146	66.73
Quebec.....	2,518,612	2,126,335	83.43
Royal Canadian.....	3,538,023	2,986,792	84.42
†Sovereign.....	1,055,404	736,216	69.75
Stadacona.....	490,488	773,695	157.74
Victoria-Montreal.....	41,853	8,137	19.44
Western.....	9,380,017	5,516,543	58.81
Total.....	34,946,733	24,545,110	70.23
<i>British Companies.</i>			
§Albion Fire Ins. Association.	1,468,310	1,016,766	69.24
Alliance.....	1,428,232	1,006,667	70.48
Atlas.....	1,259,065	844,929	67.11
Caledonian.....	2,118,593	1,373,552	64.83
City of London.....	1,588,254	977,455	61.54
Commercial Union.....	7,705,616	5,531,358	71.80
Employers' Liability.....	364,689	255,801	70.14
†Glasgow and London.....	1,619,733	1,167,345	72.08
Guardian.....	4,436,249	3,344,906	75.40
Imperial.....	5,326,568	3,552,984	66.70
Lancashire.....	5,752,438	3,972,021	69.05
Law Union & Crown.....	26,859	3,535	13.16
Liverpool and London and Globe.....	7,584,336	5,550,652	73.15
London & Lancashire.....	2,798,342	1,606,570	57.41
London Assurance.....	2,489,134	1,616,090	64.93
Manchester.....	1,551,811	1,064,671	68.61
National, of Ireland.....	1,577,559	1,079,794	68.45
North British.....	9,705,885	6,858,843	70.66
Northern.....	4,046,725	3,099,986	76.60
Norwich Union.....	2,589,845	1,596,012	61.63
Phoenix, of London.....	6,636,353	3,792,622	57.15
Queen.....	4,354,694	3,325,321	76.36
Royal.....	14,638,354	9,722,796	66.42
Scottish Commercial.....	343,421	177,329	51.60
Scottish Imperial.....	672,855	483,408	71.84
Scottish Union & National.....	2,103,432	1,151,252	54.73
Sun Fire Office.....	1,133,097	785,757	69.35
Union Assurance Society.....	1,780,270	1,047,990	58.87
United Fire.....	718,477	549,440	76.47
Total.....	97,823,187	66,556,452	68.04
<i>American Companies.</i>			
Ætna.....	4,135,350	2,952,947	71.41
Agricultural, of Watertown.....	1,309,100	857,278	65.49
American Fire.....	33,216	5,207	15.67
Andes.....	31,431	5,668	18.03
Connecticut.....	546,822	315,170	57.64
Hartford.....	3,621,061	2,286,277	63.14
Home.....	.....	60,691	.....
Insurance Co. of N. America.....	815,580	548,180	67.21
Phoenix, of Brooklyn.....	1,348,099	905,194	67.15
Phoenix, of Hartford.....	1,562,124	1,216,781	77.89
Queen, of America.....	2,306,475	1,397,834	59.98
Total.....	15,769,260	10,533,207	67.05
Canadian Companies.....	34,946,733	24,545,110	70.23
British ".....	97,823,187	66,556,452	68.04
American ".....	15,769,260	10,533,207	67.05
Grand Total.....	148,479,180	101,634,769	68.45

\* Formerly the Agricultural Mutual. † Formerly the Isolated Risk  
1 Not including \$124,272 for re-insurance of risks of the Sovereign Fire Insurance Company. § Formerly the Fire Insurance Association.

## UNITED STATES INSURANCE SUPERVISION.

We have frequently advocated in these columns any change likely to put an end to the frequent disputes between the companies and the insurance commissioners appointed by the numerous States of the Union to supervise the insurance business transacted by the British and Canadian corporations in the United States. From our point of view, the abolition of an army of commissioners or superintendents, each one of whom exercises almost complete sway over his particular territory, and the substitution of a system of supervision such as we have in the Dominion of Canada, is a change so desirable that the only thing requiring discussion is the best and quickest way of bringing it about. That the important work of exercising judicious supervision over the companies will be more efficiently and intelligently performed by a well-equipped national bureau than by the meddlesome and incompetent inquisitors sometimes appointed as examiners seemed to us absolutely certain, and we thought that when Congress was made well aware of the national importance of the insurance interests, and the danger of allowing such interests to be imperilled by the action of ignorant or corrupt officials in any particular States, prompt action of some sort would surely follow.

But in discussing insurance supervision, the "Indicator," of Detroit, claims that the present system in the United States is satisfactory, and that it is only the methods of appointing supervisors which is faulty. The article is a strong and sensible criticism of the appointments made after every political change in the different States. The writer of the "Indicator" article says:—

"Not a little has been said and written regarding the comparative merits of State and National supervision, and both plans have their champions. In our opinion, however, such discussion is practically valueless for the reason that National supervision will, in all probability, never be a reality. State supervision, however, like the poor, we are liable always to 'have with us,' and that is the thing underwriters have most concern with. Now the functions of State insurance departments are clearly defined by the laws which created them, and consist, in a word, in a careful and thorough oversight of the insurance business. To protect the people against the machinations of irresponsible and dishonest companies by refusing to license them, and, so far as may be, preventing their operations, and to compel those authorized to transact business to comply with existing laws, constitute, in theory at least, the work of the departments. If they accomplish this, they are of great value; if they do not, they need remodelling. Theoretically, the plan is all right, and every way desirable; but, practically, it is not infrequently a lamentable failure. A company, for instance, receives a 'thorough examination' at the hands of an insurance commissioner and is pronounced all right, while it may be just on