

Fire Insurance.....	\$992,332,360
Life do	543,808,346
Accident do	102,340,333
Guarantee Ins.....	22,059,969
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	\$,660,541,008

To this might be added at least a further sum of \$261,000,000, representing the business of provincial companies not now taken into consideration.

Is it possible to offer more convincing proof of the vastness of the insurance interests of the Dominion, or to more clearly justify the existence of such institutes as ours.

But let me follow up the subject by showing you the importance of the business interests we represent by reason of our financial responsibilities. Remember for every dollar that comes to the company a corresponding liability is established. Wealth is not what one is possessed of, but what one possesses when his liabilities and debts are discharged. Every dollar paid to an insurance company is paid to the company to hold and account for; the companies are, therefore, but stewards and trustees and it is theirs to hold and invest judiciously that, like the faithful servant, the one talent may multiply into ten. Do not be carried away with the popular and erroneous notion that what a company holds is theirs, not so, it is the people's to be administered with care. Thus, it is this very administration of trust funds which constitutes the responsibilities in the financial world. Let me give you the amounts thus held by the various insurance companies in Canada, on December 31st, last:—

Assessment Life Companies.....	\$ 5,293,227
Old Line do	59,504,066
* Fire do	24,111,571
Accident and Guarantee Com.....	1,676,086
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	\$90,584,950

Of this amount there is deposited with the Government of Canada, for the protection of the Canadian people, the sum of 29,535,739, there is held by trustees for the same people the sum of \$12,939,750, and there remains in the hands of the companies as trustees, the balance amounting to \$48,109,861.