

Insurance Briefs.

A London cable states that the Commercial Union Assurance Company has concluded an agreement with the Liverpool Victoria Insurance Corporation providing for a working arrangement and general co-operation.

The Imperial Life Assurance Company has issued a tastefully arranged booklet dealing with the subject of partnership assurance. It includes a list of prominent Canadian firms who are carrying life assurance policies for business purposes with the Imperial.

BRITISH LIABILITY RATES ADVANCED.

Revised rates of premium covering the liability of employers toward employees in a large group of miscellaneous industries came into operation May 10, according to the London Times, representing an important move in the thorough revision that has now been in progress for nearly a year. The revised rates for new business, even in this last group, have been current for several weeks, but the fresh scale now applies to all renewals. "That the great majority of the changes are in the upward direction," says the Times, "will be understood by everyone who has taken any interest in the traffic of insurance companies with employers' liability since the great impetus given to the business by the act of 1906. The present adjustment began in July and, taking farmers first, has dealt with all the principal groups in turn, including the heavy engineering trades, in which the experience of the offices has been specially disastrous. If any confirmation of the justice of the increases in farmers' rates last summer was needed it was quickly forthcoming, for, owing to the exceptional heat, claims among farm laborers for sunstroke and kindred complaints were far more numerous and heavier than in any of the previous few years.

"Expressed in percentages some of the advances now in force are fairly formidable; in actual figures and in proportion to the total wages paid, they are not very serious. Thus, for farm laborers about 15s per cent. on the estimated total annual wages is now quoted, as compared with 10s per cent. a year ago; for brushmakers 7s 6d is quoted, as against 6s; and for workers in oil mills 30s, as compared with 25s. These are merely illustrations taken from a very long list of industries in which the rating, according to environment and other circumstances, is sometimes subtle and difficult of comparison. But almost the only class which is not affected is that of domestic servants, in which the standard rates covering only the legal liability remain at 2s 6d per cent. for indoor servants, 5s for gardeners, 7s 6d for coachmen and grooms, and 20s for chauffeurs and grooms incurring hunting risks. Judging by the number of inquiries now being received by the offices a good deal of doubt still exists as to whether the benefits payable under the national insurance act do not replace those due under the workmen's compensation act. It may, therefore, be desirable to emphasize the fact that the benefits of the insurance act are entirely additional, and do not affect the responsibility of employers toward their servants for injuries incurred in the course of their employment.

"The unsatisfactory results which employers' liability insurance has yielded to the offices is the more significant because whatever opinions may have been held as to the wisdom of all the features of the act of 1906, insurance officials welcomed the measure as one greatly extending the scope of their activities. Indeed, in the belief, apparently, that an El Dorado was in sight numerous new companies were created to share in the prospective profits. Some were stillborn, some never felt their legs, others have been thankful to drag themselves, a little battered and not quite the companies they were, to the shelter of old-established offices. But there are very few companies,

old or young, struggling or firmly secured, that have not burnt their fingers, for nearly all were novices at the business. A few wisecracks, who had had experience of the common law, of Lord Campbell's act of 1846, and the employers' liability act of 1880, were able to save their pockets, but that is because they had the strength of mind to watch the business go elsewhere instead of joining in a wild and unreasoning competition."

FIRE UNDERWRITING RESULTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(George W. Babb, U.S. Manager Northern Assurance Company.)

The annexed table shows the "Underwriting Results" for the year 1911, and for the decade 1902 to 1911 inclusive. The underwriting profit for 1911 of 180 joint stock fire insurance companies reporting to the New York Insurance Department averaged .66 per cent. of the net written premiums. The underwriting result for the ten year period of 1902 to 1911 inclusive was an average loss of .51 per cent. of the net written premiums. I have had another table prepared and annexed which shows the underwriting result for ten additional decades, going back to that of 1892-1901. Five of the decades show an underwriting profit and five an underwriting loss. The largest underwriting profit in any of the decades was 1.91 per cent., and the smallest .37 per cent. The largest underwriting loss in any of these decades was 5.91 per cent. and the smallest 1.01 per cent. The largest profit was 1.91 per cent. and the largest loss 5.91 per cent.; the smallest profit .37 per cent.; the smallest loss 1.01 per cent. The largest profit was only about two-thirds of the average tax paid for the same period. The fire insurance octopus disappears or exists only in imagination.

The table of the underwriting result for 1911 of 180 joint stock fire insurance companies shows a profit for the year of .66 per cent as follows:

Premiums, fire, marine and inland.	\$294,071,982
Losses paid, fire, marine and inland.	\$158,392,630
Increase in liabilities during the year (outstanding losses, unearned premiums and all other claims).	16,840,733
Expenses.	116,900,483
Profit (.66 per cent. of premiums).	1,938,136

\$294,071,982 \$294,071,982

The ten-year table shows a loss of .51 per cent. for the period 1902 to 1911, inclusive, as follows:

Premiums, fire, marine and inland.	\$2,428,498,862
Losses paid, fire, marine and inland.	\$1,363,247,836
Increase in liabilities during the period (outstanding losses, unearned premiums and all other claims).	150,394,185
Expenses.	927,256,324
Loss (.51 per cent.)	12,400,483

\$2,440,898,345 \$2,440,898,345

Period	Loss p.c.	Period	Gain p.c.
1901-1910	1.01	1896-1905	.98
1900-1909	2.08	1895-1904	.56
1899-1908	3.99	1894-1903	1.91
1898-1907	4.55	1893-1902	.46
1897-1906	5.91	1892-1901	.37