

on January 13. At that gathering, the shareholders will have not only the pleasure of hearing Sir Edmund Walker's highly interesting survey of Canadian conditions and prospects, but also of passing upon a balance sheet, which cannot but be satisfactory to all concerned and especially to Mr. Alexander Laird, the able general manager.

LIFE BUSINESS IN CANADA IN 1913.

The information which we have gathered regarding the experience of the life companies doing business in Canada during the past year goes to show that whatever may have been the experience of other lines of business, the life companies have not been affected by the financial stringency. Their new business as a whole, is, we believe, fully up to the level of 1912, when new insurance was written to an amount of \$219,205,103 against \$176,866,979 in 1911 and \$152,762,520 in 1910. Several of the leading companies will, in fact, report considerable gains over last year's figures.

In one direction, however, the life companies have had a sharp reminder of the extent of the financial stringency during recent months. Applications for loans on policies have been excessively numerous. At the close of 1912 the loans on policies of the Canadian life companies only aggregated \$25,810,787 compared with \$22,896,068. The 1912 increase of about \$3,000,000 in these loans was a larger advance than had been seen in any year since 1907, when these loans were advanced almost exactly \$3,000,000. At the close of 1912, the loans on policies represented 12.95 per cent. of the life companies' invested assets compared with 12.78 per cent. in 1911. It would not be at all surprising to find previous figures of policy loans altogether surpassed when the 1912 figures are published, since policyholders are now fully informed of the great ease with which in times of financial difficulty they can secure a loan upon their policy.

STATEMENT OF CANADIAN ACCIDENTS DURING NOVEMBER, 1913, BY INDUSTRIES AND GROUPS OF TRADES.

Trade or Industry.	Killed.	Injured.	Total.
Agriculture.....	6	10	16
Fishing and Hunting.....	3	..	3
Lumbering.....	3	6	9
Mining.....	11	30	41
Railway Construction.....	4	2	6
Building Trades.....	13	34	47
Metal Trades.....	9	98	107
Woodworking Trades.....	..	9	9
Printing and Allied Trades.....	1	1	1
Clothing.....	2	1	3
Textiles.....	..	1	1
Food and Tobacco Preparation.	1	14	15
Transportation—			
Steam Railway Service.....	34	94	128
Electric Railway Service.....	..	3	3
Navigation.....	50	5	55
Miscellaneous.....	4	19	23
Public Employees.....	3	10	13
Miscellaneous Skilled Trades ..	3	7	10
Unskilled Labour.....	6	14	20
Total.....	152	358	510

THIS YEAR'S CANADIAN FIRE BUSINESS.

We understand that the experience of the fire companies operating in Canada during 1913 goes to indicate an average loss ratio of from 55 to 60 per cent.

In regard to large losses, it appears that the first half of the year was somewhat more prolific than the second months have been. According to the sub-joined record, there were 33 fires with a recorded loss of \$100,000 and upwards in the first six months of 1913, and only twenty since. At the time of writing no \$100,000 loss had been reported for December, though it will be an astonishing fact if the year finally closes before several new fires are added to this list.

The largest fire of the year was that which destroyed a packing plant at Calgary, on January 12; with that exception no loss of over \$400,000 is reported.

PRINCIPAL FIRES IN CANADA DURING 1913.

DATE.	RISK.	PLACE.	LOSS.
Jan. 2	St. Boniface, Man.	Rolling Mills. . . .	\$200,000
4	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Power building. . . .	100,000
12	Calgary, Alta.	Packing plant. . . .	1,000,000
13	Brantford, Ont.	Cordage warehouse. .	100,000
16	Edmonton, Alta.	Business block. . . .	175,000
16	Montreal.	Warehouses.	100,000
21	Fort Saskatchewan.	Hotel and stores. . .	100,000
24	Portage la Prairie.	Store.	100,000
Feb. 6	St. Thomas, Ont. . . .	Misc. warehouse. . .	100,000
12	Port Hawkesbury.	Cold Storage Plant. .	*212,000
24	Winnipeg.	Business block. . . .	*102,500
25	Ottawa, Ont.	Business block. . . .	100,000
Mar. 8	Charlottetown, P.E.I.	Cathedral.	300,000
19	Medicine Hat.	Cannery plant. . . .	110,000
21	Montreal.	Wholesale grocers. .	100,000
29	Montreal.	Stores.	100,000
Apr. 12	Michel, B.C.	Business bldgs., etc.	100,000
18	Calgary, Alta.	Business block. . . .	125,000
20	Beaver, Man.	Business district. . .	125,000
28	Gretna, Man.	Business district. . .	300,000
May 1	Medicine Hat, Alta.	Express car.	125,000
3	Dawson, Y.T.	Power house.	200,000
4	Englehart, Ont.	Business section. . .	125,000
4	North Sydney, N.S.	Business district. . .	250,000
5	Moose Jaw, Sask.	Prairie Fires. . . .	250,000
24	Edmonton, Alta. . . .	Hotel and store. . .	135,000
June 4	North Transcona	Railroad ties cars . .	150,000
11	Prince Albert, Sask.	Lumber mill.	*351,000
11	Regina, Sask.	Exhibition bldgs. . .	100,000
11	Sydney, N.S.	Church, convent and dwellings. . .	130,000
13	Biscoe, Ont.	Village.	400,000
21	Montreal.	Business block. . . .	130,000
23	Fasset, Que.	Lumber mill.	125,000
July 1	Belle River, Que.	Settlement and supplies.	300,000
5	Montreal.	Church.	*162,000
7	Sarnia, Ont.	Elevator.	*212,000
27	Brook, Sask.	Conflagration. . . .	150,000
31	Louiseville, Que. . . .	Conflagration. . . .	150,000
Aug. 3	Toronto, Ont.	Factory and dwellings. . .	100,000
5	Athabaska Landing	Conflagration. . . .	500,000
18	Midland, Ont.	Lumber.	*289,000
22	Maisonneuve, Que.	Shoe Factory.	*120,000
29	London, Ont.	Fair buildings. . . .	100,000
Sept. 22	Montreal.	School.	150,000
Oct. 11	Ottawa.	Experimental Farm buildings.	100,000
29	Montreal.	Factory premises. . .	100,000
31	Quebec City.	Business premises. .	130,000
Nov. 13	Cumberland, B.C. . . .	Saw mill and machinery.	100,000
16	Vancouver, B.C. . . .	Business premises. .	*300,000
21	St. Marie de Beauce.	Conflagration. . . .	100,000
23	Moose Jaw, Alta. . . .	Cold storage.	*157,800
25	Edmonton, Alta. . . .	Business block. . . .	200,000
27	Vancouver, B.C. . . .	Mtg. block.	155,000

* Insurance Loss.