

WARRANTABLE WITH LAST YEARS... Depreciation in Brazil, But Statement to Place Directors... Although the directors Lines still complain of the have a very good report holders. The Galveston busi- as regards volume and acquisition 13 of the com- they retained eight at the resumably the company had they were to receive in re- port was very bad on acc- ump, and the latest figures de them:— Deprecia- Deb. Net £ £ Profit. £ £ £ 126,230 18,000 89,576 84,652 18,000 87,533 96,522 18,000 53,724 134,647 18,000 107,452 104,759 18,000 29,855 181,885 18,000 38,190 Prof. and Ord. Carried Forward. £ £ £ 41,500 10 26,524 41,500 10 22,384 41,500 10 34,587 41,500 10 50,529 16,500 nil 63,897 41,500 10 60,587

BRITISH FIRE COS. PROFITS REDUCED

Accounts Lately Issued are Sorely Marred by Five Months of War

THE YEAR'S EXPERIENCE

Twenty-one Leading Companies Received £26,955,480 in Fire Premiums—Profits Declined from £3,272,000 to £1,476,651.

The accounts of British fire offices are always interesting, because fire insurance is one of the businesses in which British enterprise is predominant, says the London Times. In these exceptional days, when Great Britain's imports exceed her exports by far more than in normal times, these international services have become more important than ever. Premiums is drawn from every quarter of the globe and the offices, by means of all the knowledge gained from long specialization, and by skillful management, endeavor to extract from it a return on the capital employed, which in turn goes to swell the capital wealth of this country. The accounts lately issued are sorely marred by five months of war, yet the total surplus realized is a notable addition to the financial return on the country's industry.

A year ago the premium income of twenty-one leading offices whose results we analyze in the first table below reached the sum of £27,245,583, the largest total ever recorded; this year the figures are reduced by £290,053 to £26,955,480, a decrease of little more than 1 per cent.—trifling when the difficulties of the year are taken into account. With the outbreak of war premiums were no longer received from Austria and Germany, which explains, to a large extent at any rate, the remarkable decrease in the income of the North British, a millionaire company, which had important branches in Berlin and Vienna, and carried on there a very large amount of direct business.

These branches, on the outbreak of war, were completely closed, while the company had to liquidate its liabilities in each country. It is satisfactory to learn from the chairman's speech that as far as Germany and Austria are concerned, the North British started this year with an absolutely clean slate. As regards volume of premium income, the Royal again easily holds first place, with an income of well over £4,000,000, the Commercial Union stands out among its friends with an increase of nearly £177,000, thereby raising its premium income to more than £3,500,000, while the Liverpool & London & Globe takes third place with an income of nearly £2,100,000.

Table with columns: Office, Premiums, Inc. or dec., Net profits. Includes entries for Alliance, Atlas, British Law, Commercial Union, Fine Art, Guardian, Law Union, Liv. & L. & G., London & Lancashire, London, Northern, Norwich Union, Phoenix, Royal, Royal Exchange, Scottish Union, State, Sun, Yorkshire.

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Table with columns: State, Premiums, Inc. or dec., Net profits. Includes entries for Sun, Yorkshire, Total.

Valued at End of 1913. In nearly every case the offices have adopted the suggestion of the Board of Trade, and have taken the values as at the end of 1913 for securities previously bought, and the cost price of securities since acquired; but at the same time they have, as a rule, set up or added to investment reserve or contingency funds to meet the depreciation which occurred during 1914. This practice, assuming there is no immediate recovery in values, may almost be described as breaking the depreciation to the shareholders gently.

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After deduction of debenture interest. In some instances considerable sums have been placed to investment reserve funds at the end of 1913, and these appear to have been used in the process of reducing the prices to the values ruling at the end of that year. The London & Lancashire is quite exceptional in wiping off absolutely from its balance-sheet the whole of the depreciation known to have been suffered down to the beginning of this year, amounting to £110,000.

The London Assurance states that "all the securities quoted on the London and New York Stock Exchanges have been taken at the middle prices current on July 27, and the end of June, 1914, respectively, and on this basis the depreciation is more than provided for by the investments' depreciation fund." The Norwich Union gives the value of the United States securities as at June 30, 1914. All the other offices show the values as at the end of 1913, or give these and explain that any depreciation since then is covered by or more than offset by the contingency investment reserve or fluctuation funds.

Importance of Depreciation. How important this question of depreciation is may be gathered from the decision of the Royal to create a contingency fund of no less than £400,000, which it was explained, though, at the meeting, "will be held available for meeting not only depreciation, but any other contingency that may arise." It will be seen from the table that interest earnings alone go a long way towards paying the dividends, and the shareholders can themselves judge of the security of their position. The dividends actually paid in 1914 include those declared on account of the previous year, and for that period distributions were in some cases increased. Depreciation in investment values and the depletion of staffs caused by the large number of men who have joined one or other of His Majesty's forces were serious dwell upon by all the chairmen at the meetings. Nor did the chairmen forget to mention the service of those who at home have been working exceptionally long hours to carry on the business and earn the profits which are essential for the welfare of the companies.

Prophecy at this early period of the year would be perfectly futile. At home, losses so far have, as regards total values destroyed, been practically normal. While, since the outbreak of war, the militant suffragettes have ceased from troubling, there have been a number of serious outbreaks at factories engaged on work in connection with the war. The fire offices themselves do not forget that the long hours now worked and the great congestion of these factories, both of goods and of men, have favored the outbreak of fires, and in one or two instances the trouble has been traced directly to overheated bearings.

Experience in the United States has again been unfavorable, though it is customary to expect the first three months of the year to produce serious losses, traceable to buildings overheated in the winter. Reports from far-distant countries only account for the first four months of the year, so there is yet no sufficient basis to estimate what results the whole 12 months are likely to yield. Where premium income fell off during the first five months of the war, a large decrease must, however, be expected to be shown this year; and both policyholders and shareholders may again congratulate the managements on the prudent policy followed in the past few years of limiting dividend distributions and building up large reserve funds against the need of anxious times. The double function of these funds is to provide a large part of the security of the policyholders and to assist in the payment of dividends, especially when, as at present, profits are less easy to earn.

HALIFAX TRAMWAY'S PETITION. Halifax, N.S., July 8.—The Nova Scotia Tramways & Power Company's petition came up before the Board of Public Utilities yesterday. The Legislature granted the company's charter more than a year ago and stated the capital, but provided that the company should obtain the permission of the Public Utilities Board before issuing them. The petition now before the board is for this permission.

TORNADO KILLS 33 IN CINCINNATI. Cincinnati, July 8.—Thirty-three persons were killed, and at least a score injured in severe wind and rain storm which struck Cincinnati last night, completely demoralizing traffic for hours, and cutting the city off from communication with the outside world.



MR. H. C. COX, President of the Canada Life. The company has paid \$123,000 on claims resulting from war losses in the first Canadian Contingent.

CLOTH FOUND IN BURNED BUILDING TREATED WITH OIL

When hearing of testimony with regard to the fire at the premises of the Montreal Waterproof Clothing Company was resumed before Fire Commissioner Ritchie yesterday, Mr. J. A. Mann, K.C., appeared on behalf of the insurance companies, and began a further examination of Mr. Harris Wener, the managing director of the company. After a few questions had been asked, the witness answering after objections made by his counsel had been overruled, he was excused by the court until July 21, in order that points of law might be consulted by his legal advisers and definite action decided on by them with regard to further interrogation.

Dr. Henri St. George, the city analyst and bacteriologist, to whom certain samples of the cloth used apparently as fire conveyors in the burned building had been submitted, was then called. He identified a report which he had sent in writing to the fire commissioner, and answered a few questions.

REAL ESTATE

Albert Jarry sold to George D. Lontas lot No. 7-99 St. Jean Baptiste Ward, with buildings, for \$10,375.

Joseph O. Gagnon sold to E. Gagnon lots Nos. 23-14 and 15, Hochelaga Ward, with buildings fronting on Chamby street, for \$9,000.

Odilon Duval sold to Mrs. M. F. Pichette lot No. 152-295, Cote de la Visitation, with buildings fronting on Bordeaux street, for \$7,000.

Ferdinand Corbett sold to Stanislas Corbett lot No. 1106-62, St. Mary's Ward, with buildings Nos. 611, 613 and 615, Maisonneuve street, measuring 38 x 113 feet, for \$4,000.

Louis Amable sold to Stephen Brault lots Nos. 3105-238 and 239 parish of Montreal, with buildings fronting on Gertrude street, Verdun, measuring 75 x 112 feet, for \$16,500.

Jean Baptiste A. Wilson sold to Lucien Charbonneau lots Nos. 330-229 and 230, parish of Montreal, with buildings fronting on Devilliers street, measuring 43 x 50 feet, for \$6,500.

Mrs. Marcus Baum sold to Joseph Fineberg and others lot No. 2439, parish of Montreal, with buildings Nos. 1238, 1300 and 1302 Notre Dame street, measuring 20 x 119 feet, for \$12,350.

Mrs. John Douglass sold to Alfred Butler the southwest part of lot No. 11-932, Laurier Ward, Cote St. Louis, with buildings Nos. 2588 to 2590, Esplanade avenue, measuring 25 x 91 feet, for \$10,000.

fire losses in this commonwealth if it does not render less likely a repetition of the Salem disaster. A brief record of that disaster, although the story is now familiar, will not be out of place in an official report of this kind; neither will it be out of place to set forth what is hoped to be accomplished through the agency of the actuarial bureau which has now been established after a century, almost, of fire insurance activity in this country without any concerted attempt to bring together the loss experience of the companies under a uniform system. Hitherto there has been no such basis for the application of judgment in making rates, or, as some view it, for actual rate-making.

Regarding the experience of fire insurance companies in Massachusetts during 1914, Commissioner Hardison says: "The year 1914 has been a losing one for the companies on their Massachusetts business. The balance sheet of premiums and losses paid shows the following figures:—

Table with columns: Premiums, Losses paid. Includes entries for Mass. stock cos. (4), Other stock cos. companies (115), U. S. branches (stock) (66), Totals, stock companies, Massachusetts mutual companies, Other States mutual companies, Mass. manufacturers' mutuals, Other States' manufacturers' mutuals.

WAR HELPS INSURANCE. Mr. Frederick A. Wallis, a New York manager, told how the war is helping the life insurance business at the convention of the Fidelity Mutual Life Leaders' Club held in Philadelphia last week. He said: "One firm has just taken out a \$300,000 policy on the life of a man who would be indispensable to the company. The officials fear that his death would actually cripple the plant to such an extent that it would be compelled to nullify its contracts. A New York concern has taken out a policy of \$120,000 on the life of its superintendent.

"The war," Mr. Wallis said, "has taught the average American a lesson in thrift. We realize that it pays to have a bank account or something to fall back on, and the thought that this country might become involved in the struggle has caused hundreds of thousands to make provision for a rainy day."

PLAN NEW \$100,000 COMPANY. It is reported that prominent men in Indiana are organizing a fire insurance company in Indianapolis with a capital stock of \$100,000 and a surplus of \$100,000. The plan is to sell stock to local agents. The Indianapolis people believe that there is an opening for a large company with headquarters in their city. The Sterling Fire, which formerly operated throughout the country, re-insured a large part of its business recently.

MARITIME PROVINCE SECURITIES

Table with columns: Asked, Bid. Includes entries for Eastern Canada Savings & Loan, Eastern Trust Company, Mar. Tel. & Tel. Pfd., Do., common, N. S. Underwear, Do., common, Porto Rico Tel. Pfd., Do., common, Stanfields, Ltd., Pfd., Do., common, Trinidad Electric, Do., common.

The Canadian Dairy Lunch, Limited.

Public notice is hereby given that under the Quebec Companies Act, letters patent have been issued by the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Quebec, bearing date the twenty-second day of June, 1915, incorporating Messrs. Charles Mackay Cotton, advocate, of the city of Westmont; Peter Fotopoulos, merchant; Echari William Westover, advocate; Pergante Estrate Demetre and George Demetelin, merchants, of the city of Montreal, for the following purposes: To own, operate and control hotels and restaurants and to carry on hotel keeping and restaurant business in all its branches according to the provisions of the Quebec License Act.

CONFLAGRATION SHOULD AROUSE PUBLIC SENTIMENT

Massachusetts Commissioner Completes Annual Report—Year 1914 Was a Losing One for the Fire Insurance Companies. Boston, Mass., July 8.—Insurance Commissioner Frank H. Hardison, of Massachusetts, in his annual report, says in part: "The memorable events of the year 1914 relating to fire insurance were the Salem conflagration and the establishment of a bureau for receiving and tabulating by classes, made up according to the degree of hazard, all fire losses suffered in the United States. It is hoped that the latter event, by showing the hazardous risks by a carefully compiled record, the significance of which will be so clear that he who runs may read, will arouse a public sentiment which will insist upon fire prevention measures that will reduce

WAR LOSSES OF CANADIAN LIFE INSURANCE OFFICES

Following is a partial list of the war losses of Canadian life insurance companies on the first contingent of approximately 32,000 men. The figures are for claims received up to June 1:

Table with columns: Company Name, Amount. Includes entries for Canada Life Assurance Company, Sun Life Assurance Company, Great West Life Assurance Company, Confederation Life Association, Manufacturers Life Insurance Company, Mutual Life of Canada, Imperial Life Assurance Company, North American Life Assurance Company, Excelsior Life Insurance Company, National Life Assurance Co., London Life Insurance Company, Northern Life Assurance Company, Dominion Life Assurance Company, Crown Life Insurance Company, Continental Life Insurance Company, Capital Life Insurance Company, Travelers Life Assurance Co. of Canada, I. O. F.

TROLLEY JUMPS TRACK ON NIAGARA ROUTE—14 DEAD

Toronto, July 7.—A car on the Niagara Falls Park and River Railway, while coming down the steep incline that leads to the sharp curve just outside Queenstown, loaded with excursionists from the Toronto Sunday School of Wood Green Methodist and St. John's Presbyterian churches, returning home after a day's picnicking jumped the track and crashed against a trolley pole and turned turtle. The rear half of the car was completely wrecked and ten persons were killed outright. The car was closely packed and the number of injured is likely to total between 50 and 60. Many of the latter were hurried to Niagara Falls but a large number were brought to this city on the Niagara Line steamer. Of these, four died during the trip across the lake, making a total of fourteen dead.

OVERSEAS SOLDIERS TO TAKE PART IN THIS YEAR'S HARVEST.

Ottawa, Ont., July 8.—The Department of Militia has decided to grant one month's leave of absence to non-commissioned officers and men of the expeditionary forces in Canada for the purpose of enabling them to take part in the harvesting of the 1915 crop throughout the Dominion. Only well behaved and well conducted men will be granted the privilege. Pay and allowance will be held until the return of the individual concerned. When upon proof being furnished that he took part in harvesting it will be paid to him. Soldiers will be permitted to take part in the harvesting on the vicinity of the camps where the year located.

PERSONALS

Mr. S. Lavioie, of Quebec, is at the Place Viger. Mr. A. S. Gravel, of Quebec, is at the Place Viger. Mr. A. W. Sinnamon, of Lewis, is at the Place Viger. Mr. J. D. Caron, of Quebec, is at the Place Viger Hotel. Mr. A. C. Campbell, of Shawinigan Falls, is at the Windsor. Mr. W. D. Fraser, of Sherbrooke, is at the Ritz-Carlton. Messrs. James J. Hill and L. W. Hill were in town last night. Hon. W. Pugsley has returned to Ottawa for a short time. Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux has gone to Point au Pic for the summer. Mr. S. P. Johnstone arrived at the Windsor last evening from Ottawa. Mr. J. S. Gravatt, of Toronto, has arrived at the Ritz-Carlton for the rest of the season. Cabinet Ministers in Ottawa to-day will be:—Hon. Messrs. White, Reid, Cochrane, Casgrain, Loughheed, Crothers and Kemp.

The following gentlemen were introduced on Change at the Board of Trade yesterday: J. M. Merritt, of New York, by Jos. Quintal, and M. Macgregor, of Toronto, by G. T. Pettigrew.

A NEW CLAUSE. The Equitable Life Assurance Society has just issued a new disability clause. Under this clause, not only will premiums cease, but in addition the insured may elect to draw one-tenth of the policy six months after due proof of disability has been received by the society, and the remaining nine-tenths annually thereafter. If he survives that period, the same income will continue for life.

MINISTERS AT OTTAWA. Ottawa, July 8.—Cabinet Ministers who will be in town to-morrow will be: Hon. Messrs. White, Reid, Cochrane, Casgrain, Loughheed, Crothers and Kemp.

Impregnable. Assets of the Sun Life of Canada have more than doubled in the past five years. Have more than tripled in the past nine years, and have more than quadrupled in the past eleven years. At Dec. 31st last they stood at \$64,187,656; now they exceed \$122,000,000—easily the largest amount held by any Canadian Life Company. Sun Life of Canada policies are safe and profitable policies to buy. SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA HEAD OFFICE MONTREAL