

strictive insurance regulation. The approaching Parliamentary consideration of the Royal Commission's draft bill relating to life insurance should be preceded by careful and fair discussion. The public is entitled to a more adequate presentation of the whole subject than that given by a Commission composed of laymen—so far as their insurance knowledge is concerned—prompted by a United States actuary of extreme views. THE CHRONICLE has all along advocated a campaign of education, through the daily press and otherwise, and it is gratifying to learn that the recent joint conference between the executives of the Canadian Life Officers Association and the Life Underwriters Association of Canada took up the consideration of this matter in earnest. It has seemed regrettable that so far the only apparent attempt to inform the public through the press should consist in the broadcast publication of caricatures. It was remarked in these columns two weeks ago that if the enthusiasts who had been supplying town and village editors with illustrated "copy" of this sort, had turned their attention to giving pithy statements of facts regarding matters under consideration, the effect would surely be of more practical value to the insurance cause—which in the last analysis, must be the public cause as well. The Life Officers and the Underwriters can, and doubtless will, perform a real and needed service in this regard. That these bodies have been responsible for the campaign of ridicule just now objected to, is very positively and properly denied by them.



CANADA'S BIG MILLING COMPANIES.

Attention has been directed, more than once, to the similarity of position of the two big Canadian milling companies—Ogilvie and Lake of the Woods. Both seek their grain in the same field and sell their flour in the same markets. There is a striking similarity in their capitalization, the items of their assets and liabilities, and, this year, in their earnings also. Both have just published the results of operations for the year ended 31st August, 1907. It will be interesting to review the figures. To make the comparison more complete last year's figures are included. The balance sheets are taken first:

	1906		1907	
Liabilities.	Ogilvie.	L. of Woods.	Ogilvie.	L. of Woods.
Capital—com'on stk	\$1,250,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,250,000	\$2,000,000
“ preferred “	2,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	1,500,000
Bonds.....	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Reserved-int. & div..	50,000	15,000	50,000	15,000
Bank loans & adv....	1,260,427	202,133	1,453,215	33,329
Bills payable & sundry cr.....	106,413	398,239	193,290	918,489
Res't surplus & reserve	1,221,561	528,001	1,498,807	835,345
For Ft William mill.			32,019	
Pension Fund.....			10,000	
	\$6,888,401	\$5,643,376	\$7,487,331	\$6,302,163

Assets.			
Real estate, etc.....	\$3,395,123	\$2,948,073	\$3,725,428
Good will.....	1,250,000	991,354	1,250,000
Stock Keewatin Co..		221,394	200,000
Stable, etc., equip't .	31,900	66,617	33,625
Sundry assets.....	32,968		35,968
Adv'ce to K'watin Co.			169,755
Wheat, etc., on hand.	1,089,780	1,053,638	1,154,165
Bills receiv. ble.....		1,750	12,505
Acc's receivable....	1,035,620	355,573	1,105,639
Cash.....	* 53,010	2,977	170,001
	\$6,888,401	\$5,643,376	\$7,487,331
			\$6,302,163

* Cash and bills receivable.

One of the very important considerations, in these days of tight money, is the state of the current assets and liabilities. The amount of working capital is reflected in the surplus of the former over the latter. In regard to this, the two companies have been running as follows:

Working Capital.		Ogilvie	
		1906	1907
Total current assets		\$2,178,410	\$2,442,310
“ liabilities		1,416,840	1,696,505
		\$761,570	\$745,805
		Lake of Woods.	
		1906	1907
Total current assets		\$1,413,918	\$1,919,560
“ liabilities		615,372	566,818
		\$798,566	\$952,232

During the year the Ogilvie Company maintained its working capital, roughly at three-quarters of a million. Lake of the Woods increased working capital a little over \$150,000, out of the profits accumulated in the year—the amount now standing not far below the round million. Quite probably, as the profits of both companies were about equal, and as the amounts paid in dividends and bond interest were not so very dissimilar, the failure of the Ogilvie Company to increase working capital was due to the application of a part of the liquid assets to the rebuilding of the Fort William plant. The profits and their distribution compared as follows:

PROFITS.		
	Ogilvie	1906
Trading profits		\$235,262
Interest on bonds		60,000
		\$175,262
Est. loss Fort William elevator.....		250,000
		\$ 75,262
To officers' pension fund		570,685
		10,000
		\$ 75,262
Preferred stock dividend.....		140,000
		140,000
		\$ 215,262
To property reserve.....		100,000
		\$ 215,262
Common stock dividend.....		87,500
		131,250
		\$ 302,762
		\$189,435

‡ Deficit.

In 1906, owing to the collapse of the Fort William elevator and the poor profits, there remained a deficit of \$302,762 after paying the preferred and common dividends. In 1907 the bal-