

In 1869 the 24 Companies operating issued new Insurance amounting to \$12,854,000
 The Insurance in force amounted to 35,680,000
 The Premiums collected in cash amounted to 1,238,000
 The Payments to Policyholders were 315,018
 The business in that year was transacted by

- 14 British Companies,
- 9 United States Companies, and
- 1 Canadian Company.

In 1901 the 36 Companies operating issued new Insurance, amounting to \$73,899,000
 The Insurance in force amounted to 463,760,000
 The Premiums collected in cash amounted to 15,189,000
 The Payments to Policyholders were 8,993,124

The business in that year was transacted by

- 7 British Companies,
- 9 United States Companies, and
- 19 Canadian Companies.

Although the number of Companies competing has not materially changed since 1869, there have been changes in the nationalities of the Companies. The numbers given include all the Companies licensed by the Government to transact new business and operating at both dates. The requirements in 1869 were somewhat different from those of 1901 under which a Company could seek for new business. In 1869 a number of the British Companies had Life Departments, in addition to their Fire business, that have since ceased to write new Life business. In the year 1901 it may be said that there were only three British Companies actively competing. Within the same period several United States Companies have withdrawn from the field, while others have entered, leaving the number of active United States Companies without change. The Canadian Companies, however, have increased in number, and the introduction of industrial insurance by one of the large United States Companies within the last few years has been a factor in the volume of new business written.

The various Companies seem to have maintained throughout their national peculiarities in doing business, each admirable in its own way. The British Company, conservative and even-ways, as usual to Britishers; the United States Company, aggressive and demonstrative, like the go-ahead citizens of the Republic; and the Canadian Company, ambitious and progressive, like the confident "come-to-stay" Canadian—each nationality accomplishing results reflecting credit on those entrusted with the administration of the business.

As the principles upon which the assessment system is based do not recognize the necessity of making undoubted provision for a definite obligation, the transactions of Assessment Insurance concerns in Canada are not taken into consideration.

The purpose of this paper being to give information to those desirous of knowing a little about Canada as a field for Life Insurance, a limited comparison of the figures showing the results obtained is, perhaps, all that is here necessary. A glance will readily convey to the mind of the experienced Life Insurance officer the conclusion that, considering the population of Canada, the business of Life Insurance Companies has not only been conducted on a large scale, but as a field for that business, barring Provincial and Municipal taxation, it is a desirable one, and gives ample opportunity for greater development, equal to that of any other country. If due regard is had for the growth of commerce in Canada, in the last thirty years as compared with the growth of the population, it will be seen that, comparatively speaking, com-

merce has much surpassed population. A similar position is noticeable in regard to Life Insurance. The growth of that business has largely overtaken the growth of population.

Before the yearly new business of Life Insurance can be expanded much more, Canada must increase her population by both natural increase and desirable immigration, and I venture the statement that the natural wealth of Canada can support a population equal to twice the present population of Great Britain and Ireland and Canada combined. Canada has an unlimited wealth, but has not yet the population to properly develop it.

LAWS AFFECTING LIFE INSURANCE.

The first laws we have to consider as affecting Life Insurance Companies are those of the Government of Canada. Compliance with the Federal laws is not a hardship to Companies conducted on sound principles and properly managed, whether native or foreign Companies. The requirements and provisions of the Insurance Act protect Canadian insurers against fraudulent concerns doing business. The Companies licensed must charge adequate premiums, and invest their reserves in safe securities yielding a rate of interest sufficient to enable them to meet the obligations under their policies when they mature.

To successfully establish and operate an institution of Life Insurance, there must be both industrial and legal conditions favourable to the development and protection of its business and to its permanent existence. The laws of a country are largely responsible for the success or non-success of its financial institutions, and in no instance is this so apparent as in the case of Life Insurance Companies.

THE INSURANCE ACT OF CANADA.

A brief history of the establishment by the Canadian Government of the Insurance Department, for which I am indebted to Mr. Fitzgerald, Superintendent of Insurance, will be in place here as marking the period at which the business of Life Insurance first came under Government supervision:—

"The first Insurance Act of Canada was passed in 1868, being chap. 48 of the Statutes of that year, assented to 27th May, 1868. This Act provided for the licensing of Companies by the Minister of Finance, the making of deposits and annual statements to the Minister, etc., etc. The amending Act, containing three sections, was passed in 1871, being chapter 9 of the Statutes of that year, assented to 14th April, 1871. A further amending Act, containing three sections, was passed in 1874, being chapter 48 of the Statutes of that year, assented to 26th May, 1874.

"In 1875 the Act entitled 'An Act to amend and consolidate the several Acts respecting Insurance in so far as regards fire and inland marine insurers,' was passed, being chapter 20 of the Statutes of that year, assented to 8th April, 1875, was also passed—chapter 21 of the Statutes of 1875.

"Under section 23 of the first-mentioned Act of 1875, chapter 20, the Superintendent of Insurance was appointed, and the Department established. Professor Cherriman's appointment dated from the 1st of July, 1875, and he appears to have entered at once upon the duties of his office.

"By chapter 42 of the Statutes of 1877, assented to 20th April, 1877, an Act known as the 'Consolidated Insurance Act, 1877,' was passed. The next Act was chapter 49 of the Statutes of 1886, respecting Assessment Life Insurance Companies. In 1886 the previous Acts were consolidated by chapter 45 of the Statutes of that year, being chapter 24 of the revised Statutes. This last-mentioned Act, known as the 'Insurance Act,' has been since amended by chapter 28 of the Statutes of 1888; chapter 20 of the Statutes of 1894; chapter 20 of the Statutes of 1895; and chapter 13 of the Statutes of 1899."