

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The 52nd Annual Report of the above Company is the most favourable issued for some years. The Western enjoyed its full share of the improved conditions which prevailed in 1902. The experiences of 1901 were happily reversed last year; in the earlier period the increase of losses was very materially larger than in 1900, the preceding year, whereas in 1902 the increase in losses over 1901 was considerably below the increase in net premiums. The statement, which is published in full on a later page and to which attention is invited, gives the fire premium less reinsurance as \$2,633,433, and fire losses, including an appropriation for all losses reported to 31st December, 1902, as \$1,501,901. These figures show the fire loss ratio last year to have been 57 per cent. The marine business does not show such favourable results. Respecting this feature the President, the Hon. Geo. A. Cox, said: "The loss ratio of the Marine Branch shown in the year's accounts has been materially increased in running off business previously written through some unprofitable agencies, which have been closed," but he regarded "the results of the year's underwriting to have been satisfactory." The entire amount of net premiums received from all departments of the Company's business last year was \$3,450,955, which exceeded those of 1901 by \$158,325. The net losses including provision for those under adjustment, were \$2,167,238, which is \$9,768 less than those of 1901, so that on the entire business, fire and marine, the average loss ratio last year was 62.5 per cent., which left a fair margin for expenses and profit. The net premium income of \$3,456,955 was supplemented by \$85,080 received for interest, making the total income \$3,536,035. The total net losses of both departments amounted to \$2,157,238, and expenses \$1,133,637, leaving a balance of \$245,159 to carry to credit of profit and loss account. Out of this balance there was paid \$117,880 in dividends, \$31,484 was written off for depreciation in investments under valuation at 31st December, \$15,000 was written off office building, furniture, etc., which sums being appropriated left \$80,796 to add to Reserve Fund, which was thus raised from \$1,050,553 to \$1,131,349. The total assets amount to \$3,333,718, the estimated liability on outstanding risks, \$1,018,553.

The President spoke of the American business as having yielded a small profit, and the British and foreign business as having "made gratifying progress." The Company is about enlarging its office premises in Toronto as the business requires this. The underwriting ability of Mr. J. J. Kenny, Vice-President, having kept the Western to the fore through the very

trying years which we trust ended in 1902, will, we trust, meet its reward now the conditions give signs of continued improvement. The Company has secured a high measure of confidence owing to its fair and liberal treatment of policyholder. The Western's high reputation is fully recognized in this city, and is zealously upheld by its representative, Mr. Bicerdike, M.P.

HOME SAVINGS AND LOAN COMPANY.

The 24th annual general meeting of the Home Savings and Loan Company will probably be the last held before this institution becomes re-organized as a Chartered Bank. The transformation of a Savings and Loan Company into a Bank will be a novelty when consummated, so that considerable curiosity is felt as to the mode of effecting this transaction and as to its ultimate outcome. The Home Savings and Loan has always held an exceptional position amongst the loan companies, owing to so large a part of its assets consisting of loans on the collateral security of stocks, bonds and debentures. The following shows the development of the Company since 1892:—

	1902.	1898.	1892.	Increases or decreases since 1892.
Capital paid up..	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$175,000	Inc. \$ 25,000
Reserve and Contingent Fund..	230,000	236,000	167,000	Inc. 63,000
Deposits.....	2,586,928	2,033,223	1,787,705	Inc. 799,223
Loans on Real Estate	700,276	1,054,031	973,248	Dec. 272,322
Loans on Securities.....	2,049,695	1,248,483	1,095,219	Inc. 954,476
Cash in hand and in Bank.....	158,428	57,625	Inc. 100,803
Debentures owned.....	98,160	43,860	Inc. 54,300

The changes in the nature of the Company's business since 1892 are shown by a decrease in the loans on real estate to extent of \$272,322, or 28 per cent., while in the same period the loaning resources from deposits were increased by an additional sum of \$799,223, and the loans on securities were enlarged by \$954,476. Evidently then the policy of the management has been to keep the assets in as easily realizable a condition as possible, the Company now being in a position to pay off all its liabilities to the public faster than it would be practicable for the work to be done.

After paying two half-yearly dividends at rate of 7 per cent. per annum, and all expenses, including taxes, there was \$29,240 left as surplus of the year. This being added to balance of \$2,543 brought forward made a total of \$31,784, out of which \$30,000 was transferred to Contingent Account and \$1,784 left at credit of profit and loss. The Reserve Fund equals the paid-up capital. The good-will