

THE
Insurance and Finance Chronicle.

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month.

AT 1724 NOTRE DAME ST., MONTREAL.

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Annual Subscription (in Advance) \$2.00
Prices for Advertisements on application.

All Communications intended for THE CHRONICLE must be in hand not later than the 20th and 25th of the month to secure insertion.

**THE LONDON ASSURANCE CORPORATION,
AND ITS AMERICAN MANAGERS.**

That this institution is an old and a strong one is well known in a general way, but that its incorporation dates back to the time of King George the First, a period of 170 years, may not be commonly realized. In 1720 the London Assurance was incorporated by royal charter from King George the First for the "assurance of ships, goods and merchandises at sea or going to sea." About a year later another royal charter was granted the "London Assurance of Houses and Goods from Fire," which authorized it to grant assurances upon lives and also against casualties from fire. Various acts of Parliament regulating these two corporations were passed from time to time, until a final amalgamation took place, and the stock was consolidated into one capital stock. For more than a century and a half the old London Assurance has been a conspicuous landmark in the insurance and commercial world, transacting the triple business of Fire, Marine and Life insurance.

As becomes its age and experience, the London Assurance is exceptionally strong, and its business managed so as to yield a fair profit on each year's transactions and add to its large accumulation of funds, which now amount to more than \$18,000,000. The subscribed capital is nearly four and half millions of dollars, of which \$2,241,375 is paid up. It has in funds belonging to the life department \$9,927,355, and to the fire and marine departments \$3,525,485, while there was a general reserve fund of \$1,550,000 at the close of 1889. Something of the magnitude of its business may be seen when we state that during 1889 its total income amounted to over \$4,380,000, of which \$1,923,305 was from fire and \$1,167,410 from marine premiums.

For many years the company has transacted business both in Canada and in the United States, where its large business and honorable dealings have commended it to the public confidence. In Canada the corporation has been successfully represented for more than twenty-five years, and under its new manager will doubtless enjoy increased prosperity. It commenced business in the United States in 1872, and has continued to hold a prominent place among the foreign companies, collecting since then in premiums \$9,924,309 and disbursing \$5,706,929 for losses, confining its operations exclusively to the fire branch of the business.

GEORGE H. MARKS.

In this connection it will be of interest to make brief mention of the present manager of the United States Branch of the London Assurance, Mr. Geo. H. Marks, with headquarters at New York.

Mr. Marks is of English parentage, having been born in London in 1859, and is the son of Mr. T. Septimus Marks, the fire manager in London of the Liverpool and London and Globe. He was thus born into the insurance fraternity, and very appropriately and naturally we find him at an early age actively engaged in a responsible position in the insurance business, having been appointed in 1880 as surveyor for the London Assurance Corporation. Previous to this appointment he had served for some time in the ranks of the Northern Assurance. Such was the satisfactory manner in which young Marks performed his duties with the "London" and the confidence with which he was regarded, that in July, 1885, he was sent by the company to New York as assistant to United States Manager J. M. Duane. Here his industry and good judgment speedily won the favor of his superior who was not slow to recognize merit, and very naturally when in Oct., 1887, that gentleman resigned to accept a position as the head of the Philadelphia house of a large firm, Mr. Marks was promoted to the vacated managerial position, which he has since occupied with marked credit to himself and with profit to the company. We need hardly say that Mr. Marks is comparatively a young man to hold such an important position, being, we believe, the youngest United States manager of any of the foreign companies, but here, as elsewhere, demonstrated ability to do good work continuously counts for more than mere years. Mr. Marks is popular among his underwriting associates no less for his companionable qualities, which are of the best, than for the true merit which they know him to possess. While the London Assurance is so fortunate as to retain its present United States manager, there need be no anxiety with reference to the promotion of its interests.

EDWARD A. LILLY.

Edward Archibald Lilly is the third son of R. R. W. Lilly, Esq., Q.C., and was born at St. John's, Newfoundland, in July, 1856, where his early education was received. In 1871, at the age of 15 years, he entered the office of the Northern Assurance Company's agency in that city, where he soon became familiar with the details of the business, and was commended by his employers for his progress. Some three years later he came to Montreal and entered the service of the Phoenix of London under its late manager, Mr. James Davison, remaining about nine months, when he joined the staff of the Royal in a junior capacity, successively rising to more important positions from time to time. Here Mr. Lilly remained for about eight years, and received most valuable training under the supervision of that accomplished underwriter, Manager Tatley, and where he performed his duties with commendable credit to himself and to the satisfaction of his superior.