

THE JULY FIRE LOSS.

The losses by fire in the United States and Canada during the month of July, as compiled from the records of the New York Journal of Commerce, aggregated \$16,143,050, as compared with \$23,013,800 charged against the same month last year, and \$9,006,800 in July, 1915. The fire losses for the first seven months of 1917 reach a total of \$158,764,775, against \$148,790,220 for the same months of 1916. The following table gives a comparison of the losses by months for the first seven months of this year with those of the same period of 1916, together with the losses for the balance of 1916:—

	1916	1917
January.....	\$21,423,350	\$36,431,770
February.....	24,770,770	29,587,660
March.....	38,680,250	17,523,000
April.....	12,681,050	18,597,225
May.....	15,973,500	24,968,800
June.....	12,247,500	15,513,270
July.....	23,013,800	24,564,575
Total 7 months.....	\$148,790,220	\$158,764,775
August.....	10,745,000
September.....	12,244,625
October.....	17,701,375
November.....	19,898,450
December.....	22,063,325
Total for year.....	\$231,442,995

During July this year there were 211 fires each causing an estimated property damage of \$10,000 or over.

The increase of ten million dollars in the first seven months' losses in comparison with the same period of 1916, which was abnormally bad, remarks the Journal of Commerce, means an unfortunate experience for the fire underwriters in 1917, which will inevitably be a poor year even if the increase does not continue.

AIR RAID RISKS—AND OTHERS.

Those persons who, in completing proposals during the last few weeks for insurance against personal injury by air raid have had to answer in the negative some such enquiry as "Do you hold an ordinary accident policy?" will find food for thought in the following question and answer in last Monday's proceedings in the House of Commons:—

Sir Stuart Coats asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he would supply the complete figures of those killed and injured in hostile air raids and in street accidents in the London Metropolitan area from the commencement of the War to date.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Sir G. Cave):—

The figures are as follows:

Killed in air raids.....	366
Killed in street accidents.....	2,412
Injured in air raids.....	1,092
Injured in street accidents.....	70,863

These figures include all persons killed and injured in air raids in the Metropolitan Police district and the City of London up to the present date. The figure of street accidents are given up to 30th June in the Metropolitan Police district and to 22nd instant in the City of London, these being the latest dates for which figures are available.—*Post Magazine.*

ROYAL ARCANUM'S "BIG DRIVE" FOR NEW MEMBERS.

The Royal Arcanum proposes, in its August Bulletin, to institute a fall campaign for 5,000 new members.

A difficult problem, when it is realized that since July 1st, 1916, the order has lost by withdrawals and death 90,452 members; that in the same length of time it has taken in 1,382 new members and reinstated 4,361. This new membership amounts to an average of 106 per month. The order now reports in its August Bulletin subordinate councils, 1,736, thus showing that during thirteen months the new members have been less than one for each council. During the same time the number of councils in good standing has decreased from 1,887 to the present number as reported, 1,736.

If the managers of the Royal Arcanum expect to acquire 5,000 new members from September 15th to December 31st, they are counting on initiating in three and one-half months 3,618 more men than they took in during the said thirteen months just past.—*Boston Standard.*

INTELLIGENT CRITICISM.

A good example of the intelligent sort of stuff which passes in some quarters in Canada as insurance news and criticism is found in a Toronto weekly financial paper, which publishes a list of the premiums and claims for 1916 on the various classes of insurance business transacted in Saskatchewan, and heads the list "Made Good Profit; Insurance Companies operating in Saskatchewan do Well." The facts are that the companies transacting fire business in the province had, in 1916, a good year; those transacting hail business lost several hundred thousand dollars, and of the minor sorts of business, the combined premiums of which amount to little more than \$100,000, some had a fair year and others an indifferent one. The intelligent Toronto journalist apparently based his heading on the large premium and small claim figures of the life business, which he carefully includes with the others, on the supposition that the difference between one year's life premiums and one year's claims is profit! Comment on such blissful ignorance is a real superfluity.

NORTHERN MAKES ANOTHER ACQUISITION.

Cables report the Northern Assurance Company, of Aberdeen, as making another acquisition. The Provident Accident & Guarantee Company, of London, is to be acquired by the Northern, which is offering twenty-one shillings and nine pence cash and twenty-four pounds sterling of 5 per cent. war loan, representing a total payment valued at twenty-three pounds fifteen shillings for each Provident share of ten pounds sterling, with four pounds paid up. The Provident is continuing operations as a separate Company under its existing management. Its business is chiefly accident, but includes fire and marine lines.

It will be recalled that the Northern Assurance absorbed the Indemnity Mutual Marine Company last March.

The North-Western Life reports its subscribed capital as increased by \$46,000 during the past half year.