CANADIAN INSURANCE REPORT.

Insurance Superintendent Fitzgerald's Report upon the various branches of insurance by companies transacting business in Canada during the year 1897 is out, and we present in this issue the more important portion of the explanatory text found in the Introduction. In addition to publishing the tabulated results of the fire and life business by companies, we intend to produce any additional features of interest found in Mr. Fitzgerald's excellent report:—

Fire and Inland Marine Insurance, 1897.

During the year 1897 the business of fire insurance in Canada was carried on by 34 companies; of these 6 were Canadian, 20 British and 8 American. Inland marine insurance was also transacted by 4 of them (2 Canadian, 1 British and 1 American), and ocean marine by 2 of them (both Canadian). This list of companies differs from that of the previous year, in that 1 Canadian Company, viz.:—The Canadian Fire Insurance Company, was added thereto. Two British companies (the British and Foreign Marine and the Reliance Marine) carried on the business of inland marine insurance exclusively. One American company (the Agricultural) retired during the year.

Fire Premiums and Losses in Canada in 1897.

The cash received for premiums during the year in Canada has amounted to $7,157,661, being greater than that received in 1896 by $81,811; and the amount paid for losses has been $4,701,833, which is greater than that paid in 1896 by $528,332. The ratio of losses paid to premiums received is shown in the following table:—

Fire Insurance in Canada in 1897.

—	Paid for Losses.	Received for Premiums.	Rate of Losses Paid per cent. of Premiums Received.	The same for 1896.
	$	$		
Canadian Companies	718,891	1,021,216	70.40	67.20
British "	3,334,667	5,165,202	64.56	56.85
American "	648 275	971,243	66.75	60.91
Total	4,701,833	7,157,661	65.69	58.98

The corresponding results for the twenty-nine years over which our records extend are given below:—

Fire Insurance in Canada.

—	Premiums Received.	Losses Paid	Rate of Losses Paid per cent. of Pemiums Received
	$	$	
1869	1,785,539	1,027,720	57·56
1870	1,916,779	1,624,837	84 77
1871	2,321,716	1,549,199	66·73
1872	2,628,710	1,909,975	72 66
1873	2,968,416	1,682,184	56·67
1874	3,522,303	1,926.159	54·68
1875	3,594,7[illegible]4	2,563,531	71·31
1876	3,708,006	2,867.295	77·33
1877	3,764,005	8,490,919	225·58
1878	3,364,430	1,822,674	54·11
1879	3,227,488	2,145,198	66·47
1880	3,479,577	1,666,578	47·90
1881	3,827,116	3,169,[illegible]24	82 83
1882	4.229.706	2,674,986	63·01
1883	4,624,741	2,920,228	63·14
1884	4,980,128	3,245,323	65·16
1885	4,852,460	2,679,287	55·22
1886	4,932,335	3,301,388	66·93
1887	5,244,502	3,403,514	64·90
1888	5,437,263	3,073,822	56·53
1889	5,588,016	2,876,211	51·47
1890	5,836,071	3,266,567	55·97
1891	6,168,716	3,905,697	63·31
1892	6,512,327	4,377,270	67·22
1893	6.793,595	5,052,696	74·37
1894	6,711,369	4,589,363	68·38
1895	6,943,382	4,993,750	71·92
1896	7,075,850	4,173,501	58 98
1897	7,157,661	4,701,833	65.69
Totals	133,200,971	91,671,523	68·82

Taking the totals for the same twenty-nine years, according to the nationalities of the companies, the following are the results:—

Fire Insurance in Canada for the twenty-nine years—1869—1897.

—	Premiums Received.	Losses Paid	Rate of Losses Paid per cent. of Premiums Received.
	$	$	
Canadian Companies	32,620,945	23,320,304	71.49
British do	86,943,724	59,135,397	68·02
American do	13,636,302	9,215,822	67·58
Totals	133,200,971	91,671,523	68·82

If we had excluded from these tables the year of the disastrous fire in St. John (1877), the average loss rate would have come out 64.26.

Obtaining an approximation to the losses incurred during the year, by excluding the payments for losses outstanding at the beginning of the year, and including the amounts estimated for those of the year still unsettled, the ratio of the losses incurred to premiums received comes out 64.41 per cent., which is 3.10 per cent. greater than the 60.31 of the previous year and is 0.93 per cent. greater than the average for the last fifteen years (63.48). The following are the rates of incurred losses from 1883:—