

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

On another page will be found a statement of the results of the business of the Standard Life for year ending 15th November, 1904, which is published in advance of the 79th annual report.

In the year 1903-4, the company issued 5,466 policies assuring \$11,844,106, as compared with 5,408 policies for \$11,718,525 in previous year. The total existing assurances in force on 15th November, 1904, amounted to \$137,022,289 against \$134,560,035 a year earlier, the increase in 1903-4 having been \$2,462,254.

The revenue for the year from premiums and interest was \$6,965,338, which exceeds the previous year's by \$199,718. For the purchase of annuities \$672,768 was received, being an increase in the year of \$44,608.

The death claims, including bonus additions, were \$3,530,844, the increase over previous year having been \$145,692. The claims under endowments mature during the year, including bonus additions, amounted to \$531,279. The accumulated funds at close of the year were \$55,094,925, the increase over previous year being \$1,491,916.

The average rate of interest earned was reported equal to 4.17 per cent. against 4.13 per cent. in 1903-4.

THE MARCH FIRE LOSS.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of March, as compiled from the carefully kept records of the New York "Commercial Bulletin," shows a total of \$14,715,400. The following table gives a comparison of the losses by months:

	1905.	1904.	1903.
January.....	\$16,378,100	\$21,790,200	\$13,166,350
February.....	25,591,000	90,051,000	16,090,800
March.....	14,715,400	11,202,150	9,907,650
Total 3 months..	\$56,684,500	\$123,043,350	\$39,164,800
April.....		23,623,000	13,549,000
May.....		15,221,400	16,360,800
June.....		10,646,700	14,648,350
July.....		11,923,200	12,838,600
August.....		9,715,200	8,428,350
September.....		14,387,650	9,939,450
October.....		12,866,200	10,409,800
November.....		11,515,000	13,589,550
December.....		19,422,350	17,224,700
Total 12 months...		\$252,364,050	\$156,195,600

The record for first quarter of this year is very unsatisfactory, the losses being 44 per cent. in excess of the total for some three months in 1903, and in March $3\frac{1}{2}$ millions more than in March last year and nearly 5 millions, or 50 per cent. higher than in March, 1903.

The worst fires during March were these:

Connellsville, Pa., mail car and contents.....	\$250,000
New York city, wickerware works and other.....	205,000
Cedar Rapids, Iowa, cereal mills.....	1,500,000
Council Bluffs, Iowa, grain elevator.....	270,000
Fridley, Minn., various.....	225,000
Fernie, B.C., coal mine property.....	200,000
Brockton, Mass., shoe factory.....	250,000
Columbus, Ohio, dry goods store.....	220,000
Rome, Ga., agricultural chemical works.....	250,000
Carten, Ind., business houses and dwellings.....	200,000
Corinth, Miss., cotton compress and oil mills.....	200,000
Marion, Ky., business part of town.....	200,000

THE EXCELSIOR LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

At the annual meeting of the Excelsior Life, recently held in Toronto, a report was presented which shows an increase in each item of the Company's business. A significant sign of the confidence felt in the position and prospects of the Company was shown by the balance of the authorized capital of the company having been disposed of at 150, the new issue being allotted and paid for in 10 days.

During last year there was new insurance issued to extent of \$2,238,157, which is an increase of 38 per cent. over previous year. The income, excluding capital, was \$283,502, and the disbursements \$168,286, of which about \$50,000 was paid to or for account of policy-holders. The death-rate for 1904 was 5.56, the average death rate since the company was founded having been only 3.54, which evidences commendable care in the selection of lives.

The gross assets for security of policy-holders, inclusive of uncalled capital, are \$1,252,448, the year's increase being \$291,068. The reserve fund is given as \$738,646, which shows an increase of \$134,297, or 23 per cent., and the net surplus on policy-holders' account is \$88,801. The total assurance in force at end of 1904 was \$7,646,789, an increase of \$1,474,192 or 24 per cent. It is evident that the Excelsior Life is answering to its title by making yearly advances to a higher level. The operations of the company are now being conducted throughout the Dominion and much satisfaction is felt at the results which have followed the widening of the company's field.

The manager, Mr. Marshall, is highly respected and is devoting his abilities very energetically to extending the business and building up the Excelsior on sound lines.

DR. R. L. BOTSFORD, OF MONCTON, contemplates establishing a sanitarium for the treatment of tuberculosis, which treatment has proven so conspicuously successful. A suitable spot is being selected. The institution will be located about three and one-quarter miles from Moncton, a plot of land containing over 200 acres, at an elevation of about 800 feet, which is about the medium elevation, being neither too high nor too low, the altitude being very important in the treatment.