

THE CANADA LIFE'S REPORT.

That fine old Company, the Canada Life, benefited substantially from the favorable conditions for the life insurance business, which existed last year throughout Canada. Results of an all-round satisfactory character are shown in the newly-published annual report. As regards the enlarged volume of new paid-for business, it is interesting to note that the Canada Life, in 1917, extended considerably the sale of Monthly Income and Business Insurance, many applications for very large amounts having been received during the year. The important fact about these two modern developments in life insurance is that while obviously possessing great potentialities, they are both, comparatively speaking, yet in their infancy, and a company like the Canada Life, which has done much work with them of a pioneer character, will, without doubt, obtain an increasingly satisfactory volume of business through them, as time goes on. One other feature of the Canada Life's new business is particularly satisfactory—the Company again reports having placed more additional insurance with existing policyholders than ever before. This is the best possible evidence of the confidence reposed in the Canada Life by its policyholders, and is interesting too as an indication that the Canada Life's field force is apt at diligent cultivation of prospects for new insurance, among old policyholders.

THE YEAR'S BUSINESS.

New business paid for during 1917 totalled \$21,368,943, an increase of \$2,331,797 over 1916, and, of course, the highest figure ever reached by the Company. Total insurance in force was substantially increased by over thirteen millions to \$183,016,760. This is a most satisfactory showing, indicating a high degree of persistency in the business in force. Net premium income aggregated \$6,016,099, the total income for the year, including interest of \$3,329,517, and receipts from other sources, reaching \$9,570,992, a gain for the year of \$733,098. Payments to policyholders and their representatives during the year amounted to \$4,340,964, compared with \$4,122,761 in 1916. Death and disability claims were actually slightly lower than in the preceding year—\$2,343,684 against \$2,358,087—notwithstanding the fact that the 1917 war claims amounted to \$570,238.

ASSETS AND SURPLUS.

The assets were increased to \$62,580,337, a gain for the year of \$3,341,153. The greater part of this increase has been invested in Government bonds. It is noted in the annual report that a careful re-valuation and adjustment was made of the Company's securities in conformity with the unusually low market prices prevailing at the end of the year, and it is felt that when conditions are again normal, these investments will show a marked appreciation in value. Of the total assets \$25,282,907 are represented by Government, municipal and other bonds; \$20,451,886 by mortgages on real estate; and \$9,222,925 by loans on policies, an increase for the year of only \$120,000. The real estate owned, including the Company's buildings, etc., represents \$4,046,413.

The surplus actually earned during the year was \$1,359,205, an increase of \$150,000 over the preceding year. After providing for all liabilities upon the usual stringent basis of valuation, for an

addition to contingent reserve, increasing it to \$500,000 and the allotment of \$499,519 to those entitled to share during 1917, the net surplus amounts to \$6,731,192, an increase of over \$700,000 upon the \$6,018,854 reported for 1916.

The Company subscribed practically its entire annual revenue to the Victory Loan, and purchased also during 1917 \$487,000 British War Bonds—the Canada Life, as is well known, transacts an important business in Great Britain. An interesting piece of evidence of increased efficiency is found in the fact that the year's operations were carried out with an important decrease in the ratio of expenditure. President H. C. Cox, and those associated with him in the management of the Canada Life, whether in office or field, are certainly entitled to cordial congratulations upon the very fine results they have achieved in 1917.

LOOKING FORWARD IN 1918.

Mr. Frank Lock, the well-known United States manager of the Atlas Assurance Company, suggests the following inferences regarding the fire business in the States in 1918, as a result of study of the experience of 1917:—

1. That the average rate of premium is likely to rise in 1918.
2. That fire premiums will probably show a substantial increase in the year 1918.
3. That all forms of miscellaneous insurance allied to fire insurance will probably show great buoyancy.
4. That the carrying capacity of companies will be taxed to the utmost, so that many companies will be verging on the limit of safety in many large cities.
5. That inter-reinsurance arrangements of companies are likely to be considered and developed to a substantial degree.
6. That the rate of expenses is likely to advance and make a new high record.
7. That abnormal losses due to "war conditions" are likely to continue to an indefinite but serious degree.
8. That each reader is as competent as the reviewer to form a judgment as to the probable results in profit or loss in 1918, which year promises to be one fraught with problems of unusual magnitude and importance calculated to test the stability of the whole business.

The expectation regarding the increase in the average rate of premium arises from recent advances over a large section of the United States on a number of unprofitable classes, some of which are of great importance, and also from the enlarged proportion of the total income derived from high-rated classes.

The University of Manitoba is to give a course of life insurance lectures, to include lectures by professors on the mathematical and economic principles underlying insurance.

There was never a time when the benefits of life insurance meant so much to the home-makers of the country as they do to-day. In this crisis, when the future is uncertain, it is the duty of every father to see to it that the home he is establishing for his family is made secure.—Peter McArthur.