

Only once before has the rate fallen below 50 per cent. the year 1880, when it stood at 47.90.

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 40.55 per cent., which is 29.74 per cent. less than the 70.29 of the previous year, and is 24.65 per cent. less than the average for the last fifteen years (60.20). The following are the rates of incurred losses from 1888:—

| | 1902. | 1901. | 1900. | 1899. | 1898. | 1897. | 1896. | 1895. | 1894. | 1893. | 1892. | 1891. | 1890. | 1889. | 1888. |
|---------------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Canadian..... | 42.51 | 58.22 | 83.25 | 53.20 | 55.22 | 69.06 | 69.50 | 65.87 | 72.47 | 72.45 | 73.33 | 71.79 | 63.07 | 56.64 | 65.14 |
| British..... | 40.40 | 74.15 | 97.99 | 58.80 | 79.12 | 63.50 | 59.50 | 69.32 | 67.76 | 76.57 | 66.36 | 62.00 | 56.29 | 48.35 | 53.08 |
| American..... | 38.61 | 66.83 | 107.17 | 57.25 | 71.05 | 64.32 | 61.72 | 73.11 | 68.84 | 74.40 | 73.86 | 61.26 | 62.08 | 48.39 | 52.84 |
| Totals..... | 40.55 | 70.29 | 97.00 | 57.75 | 74.37 | 64.41 | 61.31 | 69.31 | 68.69 | 75.55 | 68.64 | 63.95 | 58.25 | 50.05 | 55.57 |

The gross amount of policies, new and renewed, taken during the year by fire companies was \$892,049,886, which is greater by \$70,527,032 than the amount taken in 1901. The premiums charged thereon amounted in 1902 to \$13,087,250.60, being \$1,398,292.64 greater than the amount charged the previous year. The rate of premiums (1.467) is

higher than that of 1901 (1.423). The loss rate (39.26) is 30.94 per cent. less than the loss rate of the previous year (70.20) and 28.72 per cent. less than the average loss rate (67.98) for the past thirty-four years.

The rate per cent. of premiums charged upon risks taken is, shown in the following table:—

| | Gross amount of risks taken during the year. | Premiums charged thereon. | Rate of premiums charged per cent of risks taken. | The same for 1901. | The same for 1900. | The same for 1899. | The same for 1898. |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Canadian companies..... | \$ 215,145,909 | \$ 3,146,611 55 | 1.46 | 1.45 | 1.26 | 1.27 | 1.36 |
| British "..... | 556,692,825 | 8,102,041 87 | 1.46 | 1.41 | 1.24 | 1.22 | 1.23 |
| American "..... | 120,211,152 | 1,838,597 08 | 1.53 | 1.44 | 1.27 | 1.22 | 1.27 |
| Totals..... | 892,049,886 | 13,087,250 50 | 1.47 | 1.42 | 1.25 | 1.23 | 1.26 |

The increase in the amounts taken in 1902 as compared with 1901 among Canadian companies is \$44,251,814. Among British companies there is an increase of \$14,550,593, and among American companies there is an increase of \$11,724,625.

CANADIAN FIRE UNDERWRITERS' ASSOCIATION.

REMINISCENCES BY MR. G. F. C. SMITH.

At the last annual meeting of the above Association held at Niagara on the Lake, on June 25, Mr. James McGregor (president in the chair) the first president of the Association, Mr. G. F. C. Smith, was called upon to address the meeting on the history of the Association. He spoke as follows:

I really accede to your request, Mr. President, to mention some reminiscences in connection with the formation of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association.

It will be remembered by the older members of our profession that for some 20 years prior to the formation of the C. F. U. A., say up to the year 1875, we had in Canada various tariff organizations of limited scope. After the dissolution of the General Tariff Association in 1875, there was, before your present association, really no organiza-

tion on a permanent footing to secure uniform rates and otherwise protect the interest of fire insurance companies generally in Canada. It is true we had the excellent Toronto Board and an Insurance Exchange in Montreal which secured in an informal manner the maintenance of rates on a few leading classes of risks. Local Boards were formed in Hamilton and London, and we had a crude minimum tariff for the City of Quebec.

Early in 1883, a general growing desire to unite and place the business on a more satisfactory footing manifested itself.

On the 26th June, 1883 a meeting of companies was held in Toronto, at which was organized your present Association, with committees in Toronto and Montreal, and at which you were good enough to elect me president, Mr. J. J. Kenny, vice-president for Toronto, Mr. James W. Taylor, vice-president for Montreal, and Mr. McLean, secretary. All stock companies doing a general business became members. The field of the Association was limited to Ontario, and on the basis that mercantile risks only were to be dealt with.

The detailed tariffs for ordinary risks and specials were completed and became operative on the 1st October, 1883.