Companies.	Gross amount of Risks taken during the year.	Premiumss charged thereon
Canadian..	$ 903,126,573	$9,812,049.24
British..	2,147,570,916	23,013,608.20
Foreign..	1,555,337,567	15,944,454.36
Totals..	4,606,035,056	48,770,111.80

Rate of charged per cent of Risks taken.	The for 1917.	The for 1916.	The for 1915.	The for 1914.	The for 1913.
1.09	1.14	1.19	1.25	1.24	1.33
1.07	1.08	1.08	1.17	1.19	1.21
1.03	1.03	1.04	1.08	1.09	1.11
1.06	1.07	1.09	1.16	1.17	1.21

Separating the one-year and short term business from the longer term business, the respective rates are as follows:

Companies.	Rate of premiums charged per cent of risks taken. One year or less.	All others.
Canadian	1.04	1.22
British	1.04	1.15
Foreign	1.00	1.21
Totals..	1.02	1.19

The increase in the amounts taken in 1918 as compared with 1917 by Canadian companies is $83,797,722. For British companies there is an increase of $232,679,160, and for foreign companies there is an increase of $233,696,476.

In 1917 the increase in amounts written by Canadian companies was $76,522,932, and the increase for British companies reporting to the Department was $308,544,921, and the increase for foreign companies reporting to the Department was $245,753,466.

LABOR WANTS MORE

The plain fact is that demands by railroad men and factory workers for higher wages are due, not to any greater increase in the cost of living than in wages, but to the desire of employees to live better. Silk stockings, pianos, high-priced phonographs and automobiles are now a recognized part of the "standard of living" in the minds of many employees.

Every one must sympathize with this desire for a higher standard of living. It is as old as civilization and is the mainspring of human activities. But it is unfortunately the fact that the only way humanity as a whole can live better is to produce more. The savage, whose industrial organization consists merely in the collection of food, cannot get more food unless he exerts himself more in collecting it. He cannot have a better or safer place to sleep, or more skins for wormth, unless he works harder to get them. And all the complication of modern industry have not changed this fundamental condition. To get more, we must work more.

When labor demands a greater increase in wages than the increase in the average cost of living, as it is now doing in many cases, the only possible result is a further increase in the cost of living which will restore the balance. We have been chasing each other around in this circle since 1914.

The question may be asked, why, then, has it been possible, during a period of years, to raise the average standard of living? The answer is, because of greater efficiency in production, which has come about through better organization and the increased use of machinery. This tendency will continue, but it is necessarily a slow process. Labor is quite naturally too impatient to wait for it. All of us "want what we want when we want it." But the disorganization of industry and the effort to standardize wages regardless of the quantity of production have exactly the opposite of the effect desired, because they reduce total production.