BRITISH AMERICA ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The British America Assurance Company belongs to that select group of Canadian organisations which while their names are household words throughout the Dominion, at the same time enjoy a high prestige outside its boundaries. Established so far back as 1833 and therefore taking rank as the oldest Canadian insurance organisation now in existence, the British America has had its full share of the ups and downs incident to a fire insurance company's career. But ever since its establishment, the Company has consistently maintained a high standard, both in the practical conduct of its business and in its relations with policyholders. Its reliability has been put to the severest possible tests, such tests as many other companies, less sturdy, have failed to survive, and its hold upon the public confidence was never greater than at the present time.

THE EXPERIENCE OF 1915.

It is perhaps unfortunate that the most profitable year in the whole history of the British America, as was 1915, should have been followed by a comparatively lean year. The fact, however, testifies to the uncertain character of the fire insurance business and indicates the impossibility of arriving at any approximately accurate conclusions regarding it except by taking into consideration the results shown over a long period of years. In the British America's accounts, fire and hail business are linked together. The net premiums in these two departments totalled, for 1916, $2,074,293, an increase of some $86,000 upon 1915. With this moderate enlargement in premium income, there was a loss experience less favorable than in the previous year, losses absorbing $1,353,551, an increase of $300,000 upon the experience of 1915. It is noted in the report that the most unfavorable fire experience was in the United States, Canadian business having given fair results and the operations in foreign countries, conducted both from the head office and the London office, again been very profitable. The Company's losses in the hail business in the North-West, where the season, as is well known, was the worst on record, are stated as moderate in comparison with the losses of other organisations. As a result of this experience, there has been a substantial increase in rates for hail business.

MARINE BUSINESS.

The Company's recently revived marine branch transacted a largely increased business during 1916. Premiums totalled $431,719 against $211,704 in the preceding year, losses absorbing $319,521. After payment of expenses, there was a profit on this business for the year of $43,000.

The credit balance on the year's operations, after allowing for increase in market value of securities and debiting $1,969 for accounts written off, amounts to $18,582. Assets, which are written down to market value at December last, total $2,752,846, an increase of about $225,000 upon last year.

Mr. W. B. Meikle is vice-president and general manager of the British America and he has able lieutenants in Messrs. John Sime, assistant general manager, and E. F. Garrow, secretary.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

Specially compiled by The Chronicle.

FIRE AT WINNIPEG.

By the fire which occurred on the 11th instant on the Northern Elevator Company's premises at Winnipeg, Man., the following companies are interested:—

On Building—Firemen's of Newark, $5,000; National Union, $6,000; Aetna, $2,500; American Central, $2,500; Palatine, $2,500; Mercantile F. & M., $2,500; Imperial Underwriters, $5,500; British America, $1,000; Continental of Winnipeg, $1,000; North Union, $1,500; Caledonian, $5,000; Commercial Union, $1,500; Union of Paris, $2,500; British Colonial, $2,500; General of Paris, $2,500; Stuyvesant, $1,000; Providence-Washington, $1,000; German-American, $1,000; St. Lawrence Underwriters, $1,500; Guardian, $2,500; St. Paul, $2,500; North Empire, $2,000; American Underwriters, $1,000; General of Perth, $1,000; Delaware Underwriters, $2,500; Liverpool-Manitoba, $3,500; Connecticut, $1,500; British Empire Underwriters, $1,000; Ocean, $1,000; Liverpool & London & Globe, $1,000; Equitable F. & M., $500; State of Pennsylvania, $1,500; total, $70,000. Loss total.

On Grain—Firemen's of Newark, $2,500; American Central, $10,000; Palatine, $10,000; Imperial Underwriters, $5,000; British America, $9,000; Caledonian, $2,500; General of Paris, $2,500; American Underwriters, $2,500; General of Perth, $2,500; Delaware Underwriters, $2,500; Liverpool-Manitoba, $5,000; Connecticut, $3,500; British Empire Underwriters, $2,500; Ocean, $5,000; Equitable Fire & Marine, $2,500; State of Pennsylvania, $2,500; Dominion, $2,500; Phenix of Hartford, $5,000; British Crown, $5,000; Minnesota, $7,500; Industrial of Ohio, $10,000; total, $100,000. Loss total

FIRE AT SUDBURY, ONT.

By the fire which occurred on the 6th instant on the premises of Prestons, Limited, dry goods, etc., the following companies are interested:—

On Stock—L'Union, $2,000; Guardian, $1,500; Northern, $3,000; Caledonian, $1,500; Law Union & Rock, $2,000; Atlas, $2,000; Century, $2,500; Liverpool, $2,500; Mercantile, $2,000; Palatine, $5,000; General, $7,000; Niagara, $2,000; Hudson Bay, $2,000; Manitoba, $2,500; Com. Union, $2,500; North Empire, $2,500; London Guarantee & Accident, $2,000; Mt. Royal, $1,500; Canadian Fire, $2,000; total, $48,000. Loss about 80 per cent.

On Building—L'Union, $5,000; Rochester German, $2,000; Caledonian, $1,000; Atlas, $1,000; Guardian, $10,000; Northern, $2,500; Fidelity, $2,500; Hartford, $5,000; Commercial Union, $2,500; Glens Falls, $2,500; Pacific Coast, $2,500; London Underwriters, $2,000; Yorkshire, $2,500; total, $41,000. Loss about 60 per cent.

On Fixtures—Fireman's Fund, $1,500; Palatine, $2,000; Home, $1,500; Fidelity Phœnix, $1,000; total, $6,000.

MONTREAL.—House of J. Charest, 1289 St. Denis Street, gutted, March 13. Origin, wardrobe.

Mr. Gosselin's tenement, 3 Des Carrieres Street, gutted, March 13. Origin, wardrobe.

J. Chalifoux's shed, stored with furniture, in rear 2935 Dubuque Street, damaged, March 13. Origin, crossing of wires through collapse of shed.

(*Continued on p. 289*).