

TEMPERANCE AND GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

Synopsis of the fourteenth annual report, as read at the annual meeting held at the company's offices, at Toronto, January 24th, 1900.

It has been the pleasure of most of those who are now on the directorate of your company to meet its shareholders and policy-holders to render an account of their stewardship year by year for many years, but it has never been our good fortune on any previous occasion to be able to point to a record of which we had so much reason to be proud, as we have of the record of the past year. It is therefore with particular pleasure that we submit for your consideration our fourteenth annual report.

RECEIPTS.—Our premium income, after paying \$1,882.34 for re-insurances, was \$215,755.57, and our interest income was \$27,212.20. These last two items amount to \$242,967.77, which was an increase over the corresponding items for the previous year of \$30,268.10.

Payments to our policy-holders were as follows: For death claims, \$38,542.58; endowments, surplus, surrender values, and annuities, \$15,620.08. To shareholders we paid \$3,000 as dividends on guarantee fund.

Our ratio of death losses was again remarkably low, and we believe we are still justified in claiming an unequalled record for favorable mortality in our Temperance section. Our experience with regard to the two sections corresponds exactly with the comparative record and experience made by every company throughout the world that has classified its risks similarly, i.e., we have had a favorable mortality in our general section, and a much more favorable record in our Temperance section.

ASSETS.—We closed the year 1899 as we had closed each of the five years preceding, without a dollar of interest due and unpaid, without having ever owned a dollar's worth of real estate, either on account of compromise of a debt, foreclosure of a mortgage or purchase. We know of no similar record made by any other company anywhere. Maintaining the same high ground we had always taken, our assets at the close of the year were \$794,505.66, which was an increase of \$127,291.44 over the previous year.

LIABILITIES.—Our liabilities on the standard of valuation in use by us were in the aggregate, \$691,143.29, and consisted of the following items, viz.: Re-insurance reserve, and claims awaiting proof, \$687,369; premiums paid in advance, medical fees unpaid, and allotted surplus, unpaid, \$3,774.29.

NEW BUSINESS.—Although our business taken in 1899 was, as in previous years, mainly derived from Ontario, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia, we made some progress towards establishing ourselves in the Western Provinces and Territories, where we now have a limited number of representatives.

During 1899 we received and considered 2,399 applications for \$2,964,336 of insurance, and accepted 2,238 applications for \$2,711,250 of insurance.

TOTAL BUSINESS.—Our total insurance in force at the close of the year was \$9,436,800, under 8,289 policies on 7,672 lives distributed as follows:

In the Temperance Section, \$7,268,537 under 6,595 policies,

In the General Section, \$2,168,263, under 1,694 policies.

Our gains in insurance during the year were \$1,193,906 in the Temperance Section, under 1,075 policies, and \$258,535 in the General Section, under 188 policies. Our total gains were \$1,452,441 of insurance, under 1,263 policies, on 1,117 lives.

	1898.	1899.
Total income	\$ 212,699	\$ 242,967
Insurance accepted	\$1,916,750	\$2,711,250
No. of policies in force	7,026	8,289
Total business in force	\$7,984,359	\$9,436,800
Assets	\$ 667,214	794,506

Our "Advocate," which has now entered its sixth year of publication, is still sent to all policy-holders and to all applicants for it, besides being distributed in large numbers by our agents. It has been found to be our most useful literature, and during the past year has met with even greater favor than it had previously done.

As in previous years, audits have been regularly made by the company's auditors, whose certificate is attached to the financial statement.

By section 9 of our Act of Incorporation, all the directors retire, and you will be required to elect a board of directors for the current year.

GEO. W. ROSS, H. SUTHERLAND,
President. Managing-Director.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the former board of directors re-elected.

MUNICIPALS.

Bond dealers are assuming a new attitude towards municipal securities. Their erstwhile precipitous rush to bid for every new issue advertised has been modified. This change of heart does not represent a revulsion of feeling towards municipals as a class. On the contrary, these securities are persistently called for by institutions and certain individual investors. The demand will be sustained as long as the laws regarding investments by savings banks and holders of trust funds obtain in their present form, and the makers of wills continue to include the municipals in the prescribed list of investments. But the pell-mell push and pressure for all grades of such bonds, which characterized the trade during the chapter of cheap money last summer, has been succeeded by more common sense conditions.

The reaction was inevitable. It came naturally. It was the aftermath of excessive zest. But there have been other causes giving direction to developments. During the high tide of the business, when counties, cities, towns, villages and boroughs were pouring their bonds upon the market to raise funds for various purposes, from building a high school to fixing the town pump, bond dealers multiplied. New houses entered the field. For a while they all thrived. Financial institutions, being unable to profitably employ their surplus funds in other channels, absorbed the municipals as fast as they came out.

But latter the rates in the money market advanced. The edge was taken off the demand for bonds. Competition in the bidding for new issues narrowed. Dealers descended to cut-throat methods. They entered into conspiracies to outdo their rivals. They connived with the local authorities. Tenders were offered with "strings" attached to them.

Honest bond men became disgusted, and largely withdrew from the competitive bidding. At this stage the local banks and other financial institutions began to figure prominently at the sales, and in many cases to outbid the regular dealers.

But an adjustment of all the various factors to their normal relations with the bond market seems to be nigh. The dealers are now confining their negotiations to the issues of communities in high standing in their own or adjoining States, instead of skating across the country after the bonds of some far-off township, as hitherto.

The rage for municipals has passed.—U.S. Investor.

CHEMICALS AND METALS.

The report of Messrs. S. W. Royse & Co., from Manchester, January 27th, says: Chemicals.—Values in general are very firm, and in some cases have advanced. Manufacturers are well engaged for some time ahead, and should be well content if the fuel question were not such a grave matter. Bleaching powder is very firm, but prices so far are unchanged. Caustic soda has advanced 10s. per ton, and is strong at the advance. All qualities of soda ash are in good demand. Chlorates of potash and soda are bringing better prices, and there is no disposition to force sales. Creosote is less firm, under some accumulation of stock, and there are plenty of sellers. Carbolic acids are in a curious position under the recently issued Government order prohibiting exportation, and developments are awaited. Sulphate of ammonia is some 15s. dearer during this month, and is at present steady. Muriate of ammonia has been advanced again, and is firm; carbonate is steady. Acetates of lime are strong; America reports light stocks, and a heavy enquiry, especially for forward delivery. Acetate of soda is dearer, and there are only few sellers forward. Sulphate of copper has been quiet, but a reduction of £1 per ton has somewhat stimulated enquiry. All lead salts are steady, but the demand is less active. In carbonate and caustic potash the makers are all well sold.

Minerals.—The iron ore market continues in a satisfactory condition; prices are firm, and imports heavy. The total imports during last year were 7,055,178 tons, value, £5,375,038, being a heavy increase upon those during 1898, viz., 5,468,396 tons, value £4,034,648. Prices of brimstone are well maintained, and the imports during 1899 show an improvement upon those during 1898 to the extent of 2,228 tons, or £11,584. Chrome ore continues in plentiful supply, and in manganese ore there is latterly no change.

PACIFIC COAST FIRE INSURANCE.

A tabular statement of the California and Pacific Coast fire insurance business in 1899 is published by the Coast Review: Total Pacific Coast business, risks written, \$599,878,754; premiums received, \$10,230,820; losses, incurred, \$4,574,104; loss ratio, 44.7. The premiums were over one and a quarter million dollars less than in 1898, and the incurred losses about \$1,400,000 less. The 1898 loss ratio was 51.7. The California business shows losses paid of 1.4 per cent. less than in 1898, with less business all around. The risks written were \$380,501,771, the premiums, \$5,611,697, and the losses paid \$2,923,999. The San Francisco premiums were \$1,158,694, as compared with \$1,862,479 in 1898. It is shown that the loss ratio on the entire Pacific Coast business was exactly 7. per cent. less than for previous year.

—The estimates of expenditures for Quebec province for 1900—1901, for the first time in some fifteen years, contain no item for "repayment of railway guarantee deposits," which this year took \$33,000, and last year nearly \$100,000. In all some two millions of dollars have been paid out on this account, since the Government began the business of guaranteeing the bonds of the lame ducks of its railway pond, a business that has in no way been profitable to the province, and in some ways has been the cause of serious loss to investors.—Gazette.

—Things are prone to look rosy when we run into debt, not long afterwards everything is dun-colored. — Boston Transcript.