

of policies issued was \$12,635,032 against \$9,734,002 in 1902, an increase of \$2,901,030. The policies paid for were \$10,122,139, the increase over previous year being \$1,723,753. The net income, as before stated, viz., \$3,963,083, exceeded by \$1,354,886 the total payments for death claims, endowments matured, surrender values, commissions, profits to policyholders, and all other outlays. Such conditions naturally enlarged the assets which in 1903 rose from \$25,964,932 to \$27,180,007, an increase of \$1,215,075.

The policy liabilities of the company were valued for the annual statement on the company's own standard, that is, the Institute of Actuaries' Table, with interest at 3 1-2 per cent. for all business dating prior to 1st January, 1900, and the same table with 3 per cent. interest for policies issued since that date. The total net Reserve by this valuation standard amounts to \$25,093,374. Reserves are also held of \$32,315 for lapsed policies subject to revival and \$55,028 for instalment claims fund. After providing for these Reserves and all liabilities to policyholders there remains a surplus on policyholders' account of \$1,861,367.

The Report calls attention to the new Mortality Tables of British Life offices published last year, based on investigation undertaken in 1893 by the Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain and the Faculty of Actuaries of Scotland. With a view of ascertaining what effect the new tables would have in the valuation of the policy liabilities of the Canada Life, a large section of its business was valued on the new table known as OM Table, and the Reserves brought out amounted to 99.7 per cent. of the Reserves required by the table now in use by the Company. From this test it was concluded that no material change in Reserves would result by adopting the more recent tables of mortality.

The branch in Great Britain has achieved a success beyond what was anticipated, so that sanguine hopes are entertained in regard to the career of the Canada Life in the United Kingdom. The operations of this Canadian Company amongst the people of the old country cannot fail to quicken the sense of unity existing between this Dominion and Great Britain. It will be a valuable and constantly re-iterated lesson respecting the financial standing business energy, and talent existing in this Colony. The chairman of the London Board is The Earl of Aberdeen, and his co-directors are Sir John H. Kennaway and Mr. Meikle, Mr. A. D. Cheyne being manager, who met with a warm welcome in London, where an excellent business is being secured as in other parts of England.

THE BANK OF TORONTO has opened a branch at the corner of Queen St. and Bolton Ave., Toronto (to be called the East End Branch), under the management of Mr. L. S. McMurray.

## LONDON MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA.

The 44th annual meeting of the London Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Canada was held at Toronto on 22nd February, when a favourable report of last year's business was presented. The Hon. John Drvden, president, occupied the chair.

The number of policies issued during the year, including renewals, was 28,597, the insurance effected being \$38,994,178. The gross amount at risk at the close of last year was \$74,846,901. The report states that after providing for an ample reinsurance reserve fund and writing off 25 per cent. from office furniture and Goad's plans account, there was a surplus remaining of \$376,760. The company appears to have escaped any seriously heavy loss last year, though 1903 was noted for a large number of conflagrations. This immunity is attributed to the wise policy of writing small lines spread over a large area. The net premium income for 1903 was \$429,838, and receipts for interest, rent etc. \$7,594 making a total income of \$437,433. The net losses were \$223,732, giving the moderate loss ratio of 52 per cent. The policy above indicated of so distributing the risks as to avoid the danger of heavy loss being incurred by a conflagration, shows that Mr. Waddington, the Managing Director, is conducting the business with prudence.

## APPENDICITIS IN RELATION TO LIFE INSURANCE.

A paper was recently read on the above subject before the Manchester, England, Insurance Institute, by Dr. Thorburn, of that city. The paper is too technical to be completely understood by the non-medical readers. It reads like a demonstrator's lecture at a hospital, before students, and requires a cadavre to be used in illustrating the points. There are, however, some general features in the Paper that it may be useful to consider.

The learned doctor explains what constitutes the often fatal disease of "peritonitis," or inflammation of the peritoneum, which is "a very extensive, delicately constructed and easily inflamed membrane," which lines the intestines and the walls of the abdomen. Appendicitis appears then to be a localized form of peritonitis, that is, an inflammation of the mysterious structure known as the vermiform appendix, which has an internal diameter of a small quill, externally being thinner than a lead pencil, and from three to six inches in length. Dr. Thorburn regards this structure as "having no functional importance." However this may be, for "doctors differ" on this point, the position of this small tube renders it peculiarly liable to irritation. The author says: "It is a sort of eddy in the stream. Undigested matter, inflammatory secretions and irritating organisms can here find a resting-place, and set up a more energetic and continuous inflammation or catarrh. A better illustration seems to us would be to speak of this mischievous structure as like a tiny