

practice, the annual statement of General Manager Richter has appended to it the report of the Actuary, Mr. E. E. Reid—setting forth the exact methods of valuation followed.

In moving the adoption of the report, the President, Mr. John McClary, referred to the gratifying progress that was being made year after year by the company—in both its industrial and ordinary departments.

That the past year's marked increase in new business was not attained through "high pressure" methods was emphasized by the vice-president, Dr. A. O. Jeffery, K.C. It was pointed out that greater care than ever had been taken to clear the books of non-paying business. As indicating this it was cited that for the first time in the history of the company the report showed net advance payments of a considerable amount on the sum total of the industrial agents' accounts, instead of a net balance as had heretofore been the case. Another point was that the amount of ordinary premiums due previous to the end of the year, for which cash settlement had not been received, was less than for several years past, notwithstanding the large proportionate increase in business in force. The percentage of such premiums to the total ordinary premium income was in 1907, 17½, in 1908, 12½, and in 1909 only 7¾ per cent.

DOMINION LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Again the president and managing director of the Dominion Life Assurance Company, Mr. Thomas Hilliard, reports the most satisfactory year's business in the history of the company. The statement presented at the annual meeting held at Waterloo, Ont., 4th inst., shows the company's business in force to be now over \$9,275,000—the gain of \$1,105,000 during 1909 being the largest recorded. New business during the year amounted to well on to \$2,000,000—also establishing a record for the company.

The year's death claims were remarkably few in number, the actual losses for the year being only 20 per cent. of the mortality expectation. So low a death rate in the case of a company twenty years old, evidences commendable care in selection of risks—and is an important factor in the growth of policyholders' surplus.

During 1909 the company's cash income from premiums totalled \$303,465; income from interest, rents and profit on sale of securities was \$110,421; so that aggregate income was \$413,886—or \$69,375 more than in 1909. It is to be noted that interest receipts alone were sufficient to provide for the year's death claims, five times over.

The company's assets are now over \$1,860,000—the past year's increase having been \$245,000. The report refers to the assets as being of "the very first quality" including no speculative securities. Liabilities amount to \$1,550,000—made up almost altogether of reserves held for the protection of policyholders. The surplus to policyholders increased during the year from \$268,500 to over \$315,000. The surplus earnings for the year amounted to over \$100,000. After payment of dividends to policyholders and shareholders, and providing for surplus accretions to policyholders, there was left a balance of about \$46,500 to be carried forward.

Our London Letter.

THE MARKET'S UNCERTAINTY.

**Large Security Issues Pending—Consols Fluctuating
—Over-booming of Rubber Shares—Foreign and
Home Government Borrowings—Canadian
Items—Special Correspondence of
THE CHRONICLE.**

At the beginning of last week there was a general opinion in Lombard Street that Thursday would see our bank rate reduced to the 3 p.c. level and possibly in anticipation of this market rates fell away. Before Thursday arrived, however, the situation had changed, and nobody was surprised that the bank directors allowed the 3½ p.c. rate to stand. It is altogether likely, however, that the step downward will occur next Thursday. (Which surmise proved correct—Editor).

Unsatisfactory Week for Markets.

The activity in one or two markets has accentuated the general depression and lack of business elsewhere. The conditions generally have been very unsatisfactory. Added to the uncertainty regarding our own finances have been the recrudescence of the Near East problem, fears regarding a general strike in the coal industry, the melancholy stories of disaster from Paris, where it is evident a huge expenditure will be necessary in order to repair the material damage, quite apart from the personal loss caused by the floods, a big smash on the Brighton railway and sensational talk of an Anglo-German shipping rate war in the South African trade. Consols, affected more particularly by politics, by the necessity for the renewal on the 5th April of the National War Loan, possibly on a 3 p.c. basis, the prospect of new Irish land issues, and the knowledge that more attractive investment securities are being manufactured at a prodigious rate, have drifted back to 81¼—only a point above the "record" price of 80¾ reached in 1908. (Consols are now at 82—Editor).

The rubber share market which boomed more wildly than ever at the beginning of the week, came to a sudden halt on Thursday, and people began to wonder whether the boom is really over. The halt appears to be rather a repetition of the painful process known to the initiated as the "weeding-out of weak bulls." The operation has not come too early in view of next week's carry-over. At the moment the British public is crazy about rubber shares; how mad they really are is shown by the fact that the shares offered by one new company this week were subscribed forty times over before the prospectus had left the stage of private circulation to be publicly advertised, although it was clear from this document that the probable future division of profits will be in the ratio of one-seventh to the public, who have supplied practically all the capital, and six-sevenths to the promoters. When this sort of thing flourishes it is clear that the market is getting into a dangerous condition.

Foreign Conversion Schemes Impending.

New issues and rumours of new issues continue to fill the air. The intention of the Brazilian Government to convert its 5 p.c. bonds on a four per cent. basis, floating at an early date and as a