MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 8, 1918

THE MONARCH LIFE'S REPORT.

The 1917 report of the Monarch Life Assurance Company, of Winnipeg, indicates that this still youthful company made satisfactory progress last year under the management of Mr. J. W. W. Stewart. Newly issued and revived insurance totalled $\$_{4,263,908}$, an advance of over $\$_{1,500,000}$ upon the total of $\$_{2,718,931}$ reported for 1916. Assurance in force was increased to $\$_{11,507,761}$, compared with $\$_{9,007,004}$ at the end of 1916, and showing the satisfactory gain of $\$_{2,500,297}$ or about 60 per cent. of new business. Net premiums exhibited correspondingly substantial growth, being returned as $\$_{352,275}$, an increase approaching $\$_{150,000}$ over the $\$_{205,364}$ previously reported. Interest earnings are $\$_{58,168}$ against $\$_{43,384}$ in 1916. Total death losses, including war claims, were only 76 per cent. of the expectation. Net ledger assets were increased by $\$_{90,000}$ from $\$_{672,265}$ to $\$_{762,145}$.

It is stated that while the Company's field of operations was extended last year, the expense ratio was considerably reduced. The Monarch Life has, no doubt, benefited from Western prosperity during the past year, and the continued urgent demand for Western products at high prices, should re-act favorably upon the Company in the near future.

THE OIL STOVE HAZARD.

Attention is drawn to the fact that, as a result of the temporary shortage of coal at various points, there has been an increased use of oil stoves and furnaces. As a more or less necessary consequence, there has been a corresponding increase in the inherent fire hazard in many hundred homes, mercantile establishments and manufacturing plants. For those who consider the increased hazard as too insignificant to merit attention, it is recalled that it was nothing more than an inconsequential coal oil lamp, which came into contact at a particularly inopportune moment with a cow's hoof, that resulted in the great Chicago confla-gration of 1871, and a property loss of \$165,000,000. That one lesson should be enough. While there may be occasional local necessity for the use of oil lamps, stoves and furnaces, there is also present the necessity for constant vigilance and extreme care. One little lamp or stove may serve to nullify the work of thousands of men.

EFFECT OF WAR CLAIMS.

The following details of the Imperial Life's experience, are interesting and exact evidence of the effect of war claims. The Company's war claims for 1917 reached \$199,542, under which the Company experienced an actual net mortality of \$168,000, after deducting all reserves held against such policies. During the progress of the war the Company has sustained a net mortality through war claims amounting to over \$355,000. This sum almost in its entirety would ordinarily, of course, have been an addition to the surplus funds of the Company, and would have been apportioned equitably amongst the policyholders and shareholders.

We have strongly advised men going to the war to keep their insurance in force, so that upon their return they would, regardless of their state of health, have a standard policy which they might otherwise be quite unable to obtain.—President H. C. Cox, Canada Life.

UNDERWRITERS' HEATLESS DAYS' WARNING.

The sprinklered risk department of the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association has issued a warning regarding the heatless days' order, that buildings must be heated sufficiently to keep sprinkler systems, tanks, pumps, etc., continuously in condition for service, and that regular watchman's service must be maintained day and night except where supervisory system or other alarm connection has been accepted in lieu thereof. The maintenance of sprinklers, etc., in good order is, of course, a vitally imporant matter, and is provided for throught the permission to heat premises sufficiently to prevent freezing.

