

STANDARD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF HAMILTON,

As stated in another column, the secretary of this Company has attacked us most violently in a circular to his policyholders, in which he asks why we did not criticize his report for 1882, instead of that for 1881. Our reply was that we did not choose to deal with any but the sworn statements of the Company, and that for 1882 was not yet issued.

We had not sufficient confidence in the straight forwardness of the officers to trust the ordinary published report. This opinion may seem harsh, and may even be incorrect, but subsequent events have confirmed us in it.

To our surprise we have received within the last few days the "Abstract Report" of the Ontario inspector of Insurance for 1882, and we propose to compare the figures here given with those published by the Company.

In the first place it will be noticed that in the Government report, the figures of the Alliance and the Standard are given separately, while according to the report of the Standard the Alliance was apparently no longer in existence, having been amalgamated with the Standard. Did the assets of the Alliance belong to the Standard on the 31st December last, or did they not? The statement furnished to the Government does not include them in the Standard's figures, while that furnished to the public does include them. Which are we to believe?

Let us now make a comparison between the figures given in these two reports. We will give the Company the benefit of the doubt, and combine the figures given in the Government report for the Alliance and the Standard, and place them against those of the Standard only in the public report. That our readers may understand the matter at a glance we have put it in tabular form. An asterisk indicates a discrepancy between the two statements.

ASSETS.

	<i>Report to the Government.</i>	<i>Report to the Public.</i>
Bonds, Mortgages, Stocks, &c.	\$42,661.56	\$32,661.56
Cash.....	17,127.91	17,127.91
Agents' Balances.....	14,389.29*	13,738.03*
Bills Receivable.....	24,672.12*	14,672.12*
Accrued Interest.....	1,916.50	1,916.50
Miscellaneous.....	18,989.87*	8,208.99*
Total Assets.....	\$109,757.25*	\$88,325.11*

LIABILITIES.

	<i>Report to Government.</i>	<i>Report to Public.</i>
Unpaid Losses.....	\$17,676.00*	\$6,676.00*
Bills Payable.....	31,634.10*	23,771.49*
Reserve for Re-assurance and all other Liabilities.....	32,216.65*	34,411.90*
Liabilities to Policyholders		
Capital Stock paid up....	\$81,526.75*	\$64,859.39*
	32,435.90	32,435.90
Total Liabilities.....	\$113,962.65*	\$97,295.29*
Impairment of Capital..	4,205.40*	8,943.18*

INCOME.

	<i>Report to Government.</i>	<i>Report to Public.</i>
Premiums.....	\$65,101.96*	\$86,851.30*
Less Re-assurances and Returned Premiums.....	3,901.90*	8,635.93*
Net Premium Income.....	\$61,200.06*	\$78,215.37*
Interest.....	4,534.53*	3,710.55*
Total Income.....	\$65,734.69*	\$81,925.92*

The following items are also given, but as they are not income proper we merely quoted them that the discrepancies may be noted.

Capital Stock.....	\$5,250.00	\$5,250.00
Bills Payable.....	11,765.72*	Nil
Sundries.....	5,197.86*	261.99*

DISBURSEMENTS.

	<i>Report to Government.</i>	<i>Report to Public.</i>
Losses Paid.....	\$44,385.32*	\$34,669.78*
Commissions, Salaries and Expenses.....	23,007.35*	21,280.64*
Payment to Alliance Company	Nil*	6,533.83*
Other Payments.....	8,368.48*	321.00*
Total Disbursements....	\$75,761.15*	\$62,805.25*

Had we excluded the figures of the Alliance from the Government report there would not have been one single item in which the figures agreed, except that of calls on stock.

Mr. Crawford, the Secretary of the Company, expressed a strong desire that we should review the last report instead of that for 1881. We have now acceded partly to his wish, and we hope the result will be satisfactory to him. Whether it be so to him or not, it is certainly not such as to increase the confidence of either policyholders or stockholders in the Company. Perhaps Mr. Crawford thought this year's report of the Ontario Insurance Department would be as late in appearing as the last, and that he would thus be allowed a long breathing spell, during which time we might drop the matter.

The Inspector says this report "represents the financial position of the Insurance Companies as shown by themselves at December 31st, 1882, and is to be considered subject to such corrections as a subsequent inspection of the Company's books may show to be necessary." When there are such enormous differences already, what will there be then? The Inspector evidently has his hands full, if he goes into the matter with the care which is demanded of him.

Our readers will, we think, agree with us that in view of these figures a more remarkable document than the last statement or mis-statement of the Standard Fire Insurance Company of Hamilton, has hardly ever been presented to the public. Any remark from us as to the ability and honor of its officers and the claims of the Company to public confidence are utterly unnecessary. The facts speak for themselves more loudly and eloquently than we could. It will be noticed that in not one single item of the Income and Disbursements and the Liabilities to policyholders, do the statements agree. Thousands and tens of thousands of dollars are thrown in and cast out apparently with no regard to truthfulness whatever—perhaps just as the fancy seized the Secretary. There is a difference of exactly \$10,000 in the bills receivable, but perhaps the Secretary, who ought to know best, thought that their value was so problematical that they could be rated at either twenty-five thousand dollars, or twenty-five cents. Then there is a difference of over \$21,000 in the amount of the assets, but that is of no importance, of course. There is a difference, too, of exactly \$11,000 in the amount of unpaid losses, but there is no doubt as to which of these two amounts is nearest the mark. And perhaps if another \$11,000 were thrown on to it it would be nearer still. Then there is another difference of \$8,000 in the bills payable, but unless these are to be paid that is of no importance.