

BRITISH EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE SHOWING IMPROVEMENT.

That at length an appreciable margin of profit is visible as a result of the employers' liability business transacted by the British companies is the conclusion come to by the London *Post Magazine*, as a result of its annual calculations. The 1912 figures for the tariff companies show for that year earned premiums aggregating £2,480,692. Of these premiums, £1,412,330 or 56.93 per cent. were absorbed by claims; £340,938 or 13.74 per cent. by commission; and £525,041 or 21.17 per cent. by expenses, leaving a profit margin of £202,383 or 8.16 per cent.

The figures of the tariff companies for 1908-12 are as follows:—earned premiums, £10,702,119, of which £6,813,244 or 63.66 per cent. were absorbed by claims. £1,442,985 or 13.48 per cent. by commissions and £2,344,738 or 21.91 per cent. by expenses, leaving as a result of five years' working of this branch of insurance by the tariff companies a profit of £101,152 equal to 0.95 per cent. of earned premiums.

This is the first time that the figures show any appreciable margin of profit suggestive of the eventual establishment of a due relationship between risks and rates.

The showing of the non-tariff offices is not so good as even these modest results. Their earned premiums last year (excluding the figures of one important company) were £634,135, claims absorbing £417,048 or 65.76 per cent., commission, £87,631, or 13.82 per cent. and expenses £143,549 or 22.64 per cent. giving a loss on the year of £14,093 or 2.22 per cent. For the five years, 1908-12 their earned premiums were £3,089,378, of which claims absorbed £2,282,151, or 73.87 per cent., commission, £455,985 or 14.76 per cent.; expenses, £703,921, or 22.79 per cent., giving a loss for the five years of £352,679, or 11.42 per cent.

TARIFF OFFICES HAVE TURNED THE CORNER.

It would seem that the Tariff Companies as a whole have at last turned the corner and that for the present the business has been placed on a self-supporting basis, says the *Post Magazine*. The permanence of this state of affairs depends upon whether the average cost of claim settlements has reached its limit, which is unlikely. In this connection the National Insurance Act cannot be regarded as exercising a helpful influence. There have already been shown indications of the probable effect of Section 11 of the Act in increasing the expense of settling claims, apart from any question of their amount; and, while it is quite within the region of probability that in a few years' time another revision of tariff rates will be necessary, the outcome of the business of the offices outside the Association represents a heavy price to pay for an experience which is still only in the making.

Apparently an appreciable part of the improvement in the claim experience is due to the circumstance that a higher scale of provision for outstanding claims at the end of 1911 has prevented so heavy a burden in respect of claims belonging to previous years being thrown on the transactions of 1912. Be that as it may, a business which has entailed such enormous demands on the organisation and resources of those who have shouldered a burden the uncertain incidence of which would have crippled many an employer calls for a better return for five years' application than an aggregate loss of a quarter of a million sterling on a turnover of nearly 14 millions sterling.

PRINCIPAL FIRES IN CANADA, INVOLVING LOSS OF \$5,000 AND OVER, SEPTEMBER, 1913.

September	Place.	Risk.	Loss.
1	Saskatoon, Sask.	Warehouse	\$ 31,175
2	Montreal	W'sale warehouses.	30,000
2	Cobalt, Ont.	Lodging house	5,000
3	Innisfail, Alta.	Church and other buildings	20,000
3	Ottawa	Wall paper and paint dealers	*19,650
4	Montreal	Sash and door factory	5,000
5	Toronto	Pott'ry plant	5,000
5	Winnipeg	Residences.	8,000
5	Kincardine, Ont.	Grist mill	10,000
6	St. John, N.B.	Wholesale stores	*52,000
7	Ottawa	Lumber mill	*60,500
8	Timmins, Ont.	Frame buildings	20,000
8	Brockville, Ont.	Boat houses	20,000
8	Brantford, Ont.	Farm buildings	8,000
9	Edmonton, Alta.	Country club	12,000
9	Deux Rivieres, Ont.	Village	5,000
10	Quebec	Residence	5,000
10	Prince Albert, Sask.	Residence	5,000
10	Hammond, B.C.	Greenhouses and plants	11,000
11	Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	Lumber mill	15,000
11	Montreal	Warehouse	5,000
12	Shelburne, N.S.	Institution	7,500
12	Liverpool, N.S.	Business building	10,000
13	La Conner, B.C.	Residences	5,500
13	Weyburn, Sask.	Stores	6,000
13	Moncton, N.B.	Warehouse	7,000
13	Whitby, Ont.	Barns	5,000
14	Perth, N.B.	Sawmill	10,000
14	Comber, Ont.	Store and sheds	10,000
14	Newton, Ont.	Skating rink, etc.	11,500
14	Bobcaygeon, Ont.	Conflagration	20,000
15	North Sydney, N.S.	Warehouse, etc.	90,000
16	Toronto	Machinery plant	8,000
17	Durham, Ont.	Stores	25,000
17	Louisburg, N.S.	Steamer	6,750
18	Lake Edward, Que.	Pulp and Lumber mills	17,000
18	Brooks, Alta.	Conflagration	25,000
19	Amherstburg, Ont.	Fish Company's barns and sheds	10,000
19	Bowmanville, Ont.	Farm buildings	6,000
21	Victoria, B.C.	Pottery plant	75,000
22	Perth, Ont.	Felt mills	10,000
22	Calgary, Alta.	Store	20,000
22	Montreal	School	150,000
23	Petitcodiac, N.B.	Stores and residences	20,000
24	Carleton Place, Ont.	Residence	9,000
24	Ottawa, Ont.	Store	12,000
25	Hopewell, N.S.	Residences, etc.	6,000
25	Roblin, Ont.	Stores	15,000
25	Steveston, B.C.	Farm buildings	10,000
27	Toronto	Business premises	40,000
28	Sudbury, Ont.	House and barns	7,500
28	Milverton, Ont.	Barns	6,500
28	Cornwall, Ont.	Business block	8,000
30	Montreal	Stables	6,000

* Insurance loss.

Mr. John Large, general manager of the Norwich Union Fire, is at present visiting this side of the Atlantic.

At the annual meeting of the Montreal Insurance Bowling league held this week, the following officers were elected:—Hon. patron, Mr. Randall Davidson, North British and Mercantile; hon. president, Mr. Wm. Mackay, Royal; president, H. H. Trudeau; first vice-president, J. O. St. Pierre; second vice-president, A. M. Sowdon; secretary, J. Binnette; treasurer, R. Ranger.