

MISCELLANEOUS UNDERWRITING IN CANADA. 1911.

The business of casualty, guarantee and miscellaneous underwriting in Canada is making at the present time a continuous and rapid advance. Naturally a certain amount of progress is to be expected in view of the development of the country generally. But there are other circumstances beyond the development of the country, making for a very large increase in certain lines of miscellaneous insurance at the present time. Particularly is this the case with employers' liability business. In Canada, as elsewhere, this business is still in a condition of considerable flux. In some of the provinces legislation dealing with this subject has been recently passed; in others similar legislation is pending. It would be rash to assume that this recently passed or pending legislation represents with any reasonable degree of finality Canadian legislation in regard to this matter. The only thing that is fairly clear in regard to this vexed question is that the whole tendency of modern legislation is to throw a greater onus upon the employer. And it would seem also that, if the mistakes, leading to very considerable losses, which have been made elsewhere in connection with business of this kind, are to be avoided in Canada, that employers' liability insurance will require in the future all the careful attention which underwriters can give to it.

The development of accident insurance during recent years, while not on so pronounced a scale as that of employers' liability business, has yet been very considerable, and it would not be surprising to find later on that a considerable filip has been given to it this year. Recent circumstances have been such as to emphasise strongly the advantages of an accident policy, and following the energetic campaign which has been made by many of the casualty companies, as a result of the disasters alluded to, a large increase in this business during 1912 may reasonably be anticipated.

We subjoin summaries of the Canadian business of last year in the more important branches of miscellaneous underwriting.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

The annual premium figures for the last six years show the steady progress which is being made by accident insurance. They are as follows:—

1906.	\$1,173,031	1909.	\$1,642,403
1907.	1,382,077	1910.	1,815,571
1908.	1,408,613	1911.	1,881,476

The figures of the amount of policies new and renewed are also interesting as an indication of progress. Three years ago, at the close of 1908, this item figured at about \$246,000,000; in the three years it has risen by \$75,000,000 to \$321,402,424. And the net amount in force shows equally marked advance. Three years ago (1908) it was about \$194,000,000; last year it reached \$279,818,388.

Losses incurred during 1910 were \$682,845 against

\$610,028 in the previous year. There is again a slight rise in the ratio of losses incurred to premiums received, last year's figures showing a ratio of 36.29 per cent. against 33.60 per cent. in 1910.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE.

The rapid growth of this branch of casualty underwriting, and the new problems which it is constantly presenting to underwriters, have been already alluded to. Last year the premiums reached \$2,103,275, an advance of over \$500,000 upon the 1910 record of \$1,644,252. The six year record of these premiums is:—

1906.	\$669,838	1909.	\$1,182,852
1907.	908,998	1910.	1,644,252
1908.	1,009,885	1911.	2,103,275

The amount of policies new and renewed in 1911 was \$80,244,379 against \$60,286,800 in 1910, and the net amount in force is \$86,641,045 against \$63,000,000 a year before. The ratio of losses incurred to premiums was 49.12 per cent. The 1910 ratio was 55.51 per cent.

GUARANTEE COMPANIES.

The companies doing guarantee insurance show an extensive increase in business and a heavier proportion of losses compared with 1910. The 1911 losses were \$153,498 against \$71,925 in 1910 or a proportion to premiums received of 34.52 against 24.06 in 1910. Premiums are up to \$444,628, against \$298,940 in 1910; amount of policies new and renewed, \$122,643,904 against \$90,780,163, and net amount in force, \$108,559,703 against \$80,732,093.

SICKNESS INSURANCE.

This branch made rather considerable progress last year. Premiums in 1911 were \$879,145 against \$603,274 in 1910. Four more companies than in 1910 are included in the 1911 figures, and as we have previously pointed out, the tendency of regular casualty companies to feature sickness insurance is leading to a considerable increase in the volume of this business.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Additionally there are a number of minor kinds of insurance carried on by companies reporting to the Dominion Superintendent of Insurance. Their 1911 business, which is not, of course, in many instances the whole of a particular kind of insurance transacted in Canada, is summed up in the following:

	Premiums of the year	Losses incurred	Policies new and renewed	Net amount in force
Burglary.	\$60,069	\$14,389	\$7,775,281	\$8,399,268
Hall.	200,190	92,000	3,319,004	34,530,150
Steam Boiler.	126,731	3,431	17,623,550	34,530,150
Inland Transporta- tion.	37,811	572	176,263,680	
Plate Glass.	272,205	64,010		
Title.	2,289	None.	418,896	
Tornado.	768	None	137,090	202,330
Live Stock.	109,257	56,028	2,544,782	891,241
Automobile.	225,474	170,977	28,927,094	21,238,114
Weather.	28,126	9,940	1,217,026	1,141,163
Sprinkler Leakage.	37,238	12,830	5,470,869	4,319,255

Mr. Hugh G. Davidson has been elected a member of the Montreal Stock Exchange. He was associated with his brother, the late Mr. Thornton Davidson, for three years, and will continue the business of Thornton Davidson & Co.