

THE OCEAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION.

Adverse circumstances arising from the war are apparently having no effect upon the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, which continues to forge ahead steadily in the extent and scope of its operations. The excellent report for 1915 is now followed by a 1916 statement showing a large increase in new business, a favorable experience and a very substantial gain in assets. As Mr. E. Roger Owen (the Ocean's chairman) pointed out at the recent annual meeting, the fact that these results, particularly in regard to new business, have been obtained when over 500 of the Corporation's staff are away on active service, and also when the Ocean's activities on this side of the Atlantic have been to some extent restricted through the advent of State monopolies in workmen's compensation insurance, is certainly remarkable, and reflects the highest credit on those concerned. As showing the great strides made by the Ocean during recent years, it may be mentioned that since 1910, when the Corporation entered upon an intimate relationship with the Commercial Union Assurance Company, the premium income has increased by over \$4,225,000, while in the last fifteen years it has increased over \$7,000,000. These figures are eloquent of the energetic character of the Ocean's administration and of the Corporation's increasing hold upon the goodwill of the insuring public, obtained through the admirable character of its service in many fields throughout the world.

THE YEAR'S BUSINESS.

The record of 1916 shows that coincidently with the large expansion of its operations, the Ocean maintains a high standard in the quality of its business. Premium income for the year reached \$12,525,915, a growth of \$1,856,000 in comparison with the preceding year. Claims paid and provided for absorbed \$6,345,655, an increase of approximately \$950,000 in comparison with the year preceding and giving the excellent proportion to premium income of 50.7 per cent., exactly the same figure as in 1915 and following 49.9 per cent. in 1914 and 53.1 per cent. in 1913. Expenses absorbed \$4,544,580 comparing with \$4,042,135 in the preceding year, a proportion of 36.3 per cent. of premiums against 37.9 per cent. in 1915. In this connection, it may be noted that the taxes paid during 1916, exclusive of income tax deducted at the source, amounted to \$500,275 against \$341,395 in 1915, the 1916 total being no less than 310 per cent. in excess of the amount paid during the pre-war year, 1913.

A STRONG FINANCIAL POSITION.

The reserve against unearned premiums is increased from \$4,272,876 to \$4,660,749—the latter amount representing a proportion of 37½ per cent. of the premium income. From the underwriting and investment balance of \$11,480,423, \$211,532 has been transferred to the investment reserve and general contingency fund which is thereby raised to \$1,250,000. This fund is stated to be more than ample to meet the depreciation in the Corporation's investments. The general funds include \$4,690,000 provision for claims outstanding, \$1,500,000 general reserve and \$11,268,891 balance on revenue account, a total of \$17,458,891, equal to

almost 140 per cent. of the year's premiums, irrespective of the paid-up capital. The assets set out in the balance sheet aggregate \$20,639,365, an increase of \$2,645,000 upon last year's total. The investments are uniformly in the highest grades of securities, the holding of British Government securities having been nearly doubled during 1916 and now totalling over \$4,000,000.

THE CORPORATION IN CANADA.

In Canada, the Ocean's affairs are under the direction of Mr. C. H. Neely, of Toronto, general manager for Canada, under whose supervision a highly efficient Dominion-wide organisation is maintained. In the various departments of casualty, etc., business, the Ocean's Canadian net premium income in 1916 exceeded \$530,000, and a fire department, established in the Dominion in 1915, reports net premiums last year of \$142,000 with a favorable loss experience. The Ocean is held in the highest reputation throughout the Canadian field, on account both of its fine position and of its liberal treatment of policyholders.

After an examination of the records of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents for the five-year period ending December 31, 1916, the New York State Insurance Department has filed a report in which it is stated that the criticisms or suggestions made by the Association in legislative matters seemed to have been prompted rather by the desire to secure legislation free from ambiguity in expression or unfairness in provision than to obtain special privileges for its own member companies or life insurance companies in general.

ESTABLISHED 1873.

Standard Bank

of CANADA

Statement of Affairs, Condensed from
Government Statement 31st January, 1917

RESOURCES

Cash on Hand	\$10,762,524.47
Due by Banks	2,574,239.34
Government and Other Bonds	7,244,943.58
Loans on Call and Short Date	1,656,956.71
Time Loans and Discounts	36,064,884.76
Deposit with Govt. for Circulation	150,000.00
Bank Premises (freehold)	1,229,935.38
Acceptances under Letters of Credit	
per Contra	58,645.84
Other Assets	108,144.91

\$59,850,274.99

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 3,333,242.14
Reserve Fund and Undivided Profits	4,486,835.77
Notes in Circulation	4,546,513.00
Deposits	46,292,564.57
Due to Other Banks	1,026,074.06
Dividend Payable 1st February, 1917	106,399.61
Acceptances per Contra	58,645.84

\$59,850,274.99