

that during favorable years results are such that the reserves can be strengthened against inevitable conflagrations to such an extent that the conflagrations can be met with equanimity.

Year.	Net Fire Premiums.	Net Losses.	Loss Ratio.
1901..	\$12,213,000	\$7,225,000	59 p.c.
1902..	13,448,000	7,038,000	52.3 p.c.
1903..	13,862,000	6,749,000	48.8 p.c.
1904..	14,578,000	8,443,000	58 p.c. *
1905..	14,863,000	6,700,000	45 p.c.
1906..	16,699,000	13,145,000	78.8 p.c. †
1907..	17,860,000	8,559,000	47.9 p.c.
1908..	17,975,000	9,439,000	52.5 p.c.
1909..	18,436,000	9,026,000	48.9 p.c.
1910..	18,956,000	9,369,000	49.4 p.c.

* Baltimore and Toronto Conflagrations.

† San Francisco Conflagration.

THE LIFE DEPARTMENT.

It says much for the excellence of the Royal's life organisation that in 1910, which was the first year of a new quinquennium, the flow of new business was not only maintained but increased. New policies were issued for \$8,288,303, which is a substantial increase over the new business of 1909. In this connection the Royal, is, of course, in the fortunate position of being able to point to a record of having paid the same rate of profits during a period of 45 years, and the liberal distributions so recently made to policyholders would be an effective argument with new insurers and an inducement to existing policyholders to increase further their insurance with the Royal. Total premiums for the year, after deducting reassurances, amounted to \$3,671,261, and interest, less income tax, to \$1,730,054. Claims were favorable, reaching \$3,240,345, including bonus additions of \$630,936. The life fund, which at the beginning of the year stood at \$45,780,742 was increased at its close to \$46,598,428.

THE MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Among what may be termed the minor activities of the Royal, attention may be called to the great progress which is being made by the Marine Department. Premiums last year were \$2,708,155, an increase of nearly \$1,000,000 upon the previous year. This is due in a measure, as the Chairman explained at the annual meeting, to better rates having been obtainable for certain classes of risks, but mainly to the intimate relations, which have been established, between the Royal and the British and Foreign Marine Insurance Company. The Royal, with its worldwide organisation, is in an excellent position to build up a great marine business, both in England and abroad, and a large increase in the business and the importance of this department may be anticipated in the near future.

THE ROYAL IN CANADA.

The Royal has been engaged in the Canadian field since 1851, and occupies in the underwriting activities of the Dominion that prominent position to which its great strength and ample resources entitle it. Under the able direction of Mr. William Mackay, manager, and Mr. J. H. Labelle, assistant manager, of Montreal, a large fire business is transacted throughout the Dominion. Last year the Royal received for premiums in Canada, net cash, \$1,221,855, the largest amount received by any single fire company operating in the Canadian field. Net losses incurred last year were \$680,316.

In the forty-two years, 1869-1910, the Royal received in Canadian fire premiums \$26,495,871, and paid out for Canadian losses during the same period \$16,740,513. Last year also saw a considerable expansion in the Royal's life business in Canada, for which Mr. A. R. Howell, of Montreal, is secretary. Premiums received were \$140,875, amount of policies new and taken up, \$1,273,179 and net amount of insurance in force at the end of the year \$4,320,540.

We referred last week to the retirement of Mr. Charles Alcock, the Royal's able General Manager. Under his management, immense strides have been made by the Royal, and with the fine tradition he has established continued, as we have no doubt it will, it may legitimately be anticipated that during the coming years, the satisfactory story of the past will be continued, and that the Royal will continue to advance both in the extent of its business, and in the immensity of its financial resources.

INCREASED BANKING FACILITIES.

In a special article published by THE CHRONICLE last week it was pointed out that the increase of business available for the chartered banks being of a permanent nature, it is desirable that the existing institutions should largely increase their capitals, a process which could be accomplished with advantage to all concerned.

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has already announced an issue of \$2,000,000 stock at 180 per cent, and it has been followed by the Dominion Bank, with a new issue of \$1,000,000 stock at 200 p.c. We have reason to believe, also, that a third important bank will shortly issue at least \$1,000,000 of new stock at a premium. Additionally to the above, the new Banque Internationale will join the list of active Canadian banks with a subscribed capital of \$10,000,000, of which \$1,000,000 has been paid up. There is no doubt that other important banks will also increase their capitals. As pointed out in our weekly article on the General Financial Situation, appearing on another page, the business and financial interests of the country depend largely upon bank credits to carry on their operations.

BRITISH FIRE INSURANCE RESULTS.

The experience of the year 1910 might be described as of about the average, writes the Economist, in its usual interesting annual review of British fire insurance. There were no really serious conflagrations, continues this authority, but the competition for business results in a more generous policy with respect to claims, so that the loss ratio has a tendency to rise all round. To counteract this the larger offices are inclined to scrutinise risks more carefully before accepting them, so that while every effort is made to increase the business on the books, the actual premiums received do not reflect the activity of the new business departments of the offices. The adoption of an enterprising policy