

Six United States Cities' Loss Ratios.

A paper was prepared by Mr. Littlejohn, chairman of the Conference committee, to be read at the Niagara meeting which was postponed. The following table of the premium and losses in six large western cities in the States is given in "The Insurance Post" as having formed part of the above paper.

1 Year—1901.	Premiums.	Losses.	Per Cent
Chicago.....	\$7,500,000	\$4,523,697	60
Cleveland.....	1,248,000	1,150,000	92
Milwaukee.....	1,421,342	642,000	45
Louisville.....	999,196	352,279	35
Cincinnati.....	1,442,299	980,156	68
St. Louis.....	2,300,515	2,102,268	91
	\$14,901,321	\$9,750,400	65

5 Years—Jan. 1, '97, to Jan. 1, '02.	Premiums.	Losses.	Per Cent
Chicago.....	\$33,334,922	21,127,596	63
Cleveland.....	6,066,998	3,508,914	57
Milwaukee.....	6,187,703	1,741,684	29
Louisville.....	4,680,083	1,985,573	43
Cincinnati.....	6,542,711	3,267,476	50
St. Louis.....	10,849,431	8,776,961	80
	\$67,661,848	\$40,403,204	60

10 Years—Jan. 1, '92, to Jan. 1, '02.	Premiums.	Losses.	Per Cent.
Chicago.....	\$68,419,458	\$37,351,429	64
Cleveland.....	11,347,794	8,056,233	79
Milwaukee.....	12,225,698	7,733,701	63
Louisville.....	9,572,844	4,621,392	49
Cincinnati.....	14,012,117	6,653,093	48
St. Louis.....	22,138,343	15,306,962	69
	\$127,716,255	\$79,722,810	62

As the expense ratio averages 35 to 37½ per cent. of premiums it is evident that four of the above cities were unprofitable areas for fire insurance business in the last ten years.

Wardens and Insurance.

Chancellor Espin, an eminent ecclesiastical lawyer in England, has recently called the attention of church wardens to a matter on which misunderstanding generally exists there, as it does in Canada. The question arose as to whether the "People's Warden" or the "Clergyman's Warden" was responsible for neglecting the insurance on a church. The Chancellor, on being appealed to, advised that both wardens have the same responsibility. They have no exclusive duties, nor any separate responsibilities. The neglect of some official duty by one warden is no excuse for that duty being neglected by the other warden. They ought to act in concert, jointly, but if that is not practicable, each warden must see to the duties of the office being discharged. This decision puts the responsibility for effecting and maintaining fire insurance on the church fabric equally on both wardens, so that neither of them can avoid this duty without very grave neglect.

GUARDIAN FIRE AND LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The report of the above substantial company presented to the proprietors at the annual meeting in London on 23rd ult., is likely to be the last bearing the above title, as a resolution was passed unanimously to adopt the name "The Guardian Assurance Company, Limited." This change of title has been made owing to the company now transacting "accident and burglary insurance," which renders it desirable to make the title broader than it is when the business is stated specifically in the title to be "Fire and Life," which implies that those two branches are the exclusive business of the company. The company has purchased the business of the Goldsmiths' and General Burglary Insurance Association, and the last report, which appears in this issue, shows the result of the combined business. The premiums, after deducting re-insurances, amounted to \$2,118,250, as against \$1,966,245 from fire premiums alone in 1900, which gives an increase of \$152,005. The losses amounted to \$1,253,920 against \$1,290,140 in 1900 for fire alone. The ratio of losses to fire and burglary premiums in 1901 was 59.19 per cent. as compared with 65.62 per cent. for fire business alone in previous year. The expenses and commissions together amounted to \$708,780, which was 33.45 per cent. on the premiums, the ratio in 1900 being 33.48 per cent. The profit on the trading account is stated to have been \$82,390, to which \$105,345 being added from interest receipts of the fire fund and \$1,668 profits on investments sold, made a total of \$189,403 available for dividends and additions to reserve. The "premium reserve fund" amounts to \$914,930, which, with \$1,862,500 the amount of the "general reserve fire fund," makes the total sum of the Fire Fund \$2,777,430. The total assets of the Guardian at close of 1901 were \$24,366,400, invested in sound securities.

The net cash received for premiums in Canada last year was \$395,463, and the net amount paid for losses, \$324,933. The premiums were larger than in any previous year. The partial destruction of the company's building last winter caused considerable inconvenience, but next summer the very handsome new building now in course of erection by the Guardian will be occupied and doubtless will be highly appreciated by Mr. E. P. Heaton, the manager, and his staff and extensive connections.

A PING PONG BALL seems a very innocent thing, but it is liable to explode and do injury to the holder if it is held too near a flame. Heating one of these balls to get rid of dent is risky.