

THE YEAR 1902 FROM AN INSURANCE STANDPOINT.

THE FIRE COMPANIES

The general prosperity which has prevailed in the Dominion during the past year has, according to the best information which can be obtained at this time, been shared in by the insurance companies.

The loss ratio of the fire insurance companies which has been above the average for some years has been considerably reduced during 1902, and it is expected that it will average between 40 and 45. It is quite time that a turn should come in the tide as far as fire insurance is concerned in the Dominion, for some of the foreign companies were getting disheartened with Canadian business. If a few more years such as 1902 prevail, they will recoup some of the losses which have been made owing to conflagrations such as that of Ottawa, etc.

* * *

MR. ROBERT TYRE, of the Northern Fire, reports that his head office is highly gratified with the general business of the year.

* * *

MR. P. M. WICKHAM, of the Alliance, has had a largely increased premium income and a satisfactory loss ratio.

* * *

MR. LANSING LEWIS, of the Caledonian, states that his Company has shared in the general prosperity of the country, and two or three years of a similar character would assist in recouping the Company's losses in Canada.

* * *

MR. H. M. LAMBERT, of the National of Ireland, reports the best year's business in the history of the Company in Canada.

* * *

MR. G. F. C. SMITH expressed himself as satisfied with the year's business of the Liverpool & London & Globe, and hopes for a few more prosperous years.

* * *

THE ROYAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY shows very large figures as usual, we understand, as a result of the year's business in Canada.

* * *

HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE CO.—The directors of the above Company have elected Mr. Charles E. Chase and Mr. R. M. Bissell Vice-Presidents of the Company. Mr. Chase has been assistant secretary for past twelve years. Mr. Bissell has been connected with the Company for past twenty years, and for past six years has been of the firm of Cofran & Bissell, general agents of the Western department.

* * *

LONDON MUTUAL FIRE INS. CO.—The above Company contemplates moving its head offices to Toronto in the near future.

MR. J. G. THOMPSON assumed his duties to-day as assistant manager of the Liverpool and London and Globe.

* * *

THE LIFE COMPANIES.

In the life insurance field the results have been generally satisfactory. We append a few interviews which our representative had with some of the Managers of the Companies.

MR. T. B. MACAULAY, OF THE SUN LIFE, reports about the same amount of business written for 1902 as in the previous year, and states that the year was a highly satisfactory one, showing an increased premium income and a considerable decrease in death claims.

* * *

MR. D. MCGOWN, OF THE STANDARD LIFE reports: New business paid for in Canada \$2,008,000, an increase of \$300,000, total insurance in force in Canada \$21,000,000, premium income \$750,000, annuities \$20,000, interest \$671,500, paid death claims and matured endowments \$333,000.

* * *

MR. MCDUGALD, OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE LIFE, states that the Company has had a very satisfactory year in Canada for 1902, the premium income having been the highest on record. The expenses to net life premium income received was 16.2 p.c. The death claims about same as last year, and the amount of new business same as 1901.

* * *

MR. DAVID BURKE, OF THE ROYAL VICTORIA LIFE, informs us that his company has had a good year with very satisfactory increase all round. The premium income shows an increase of 35 p.c., death claims 20 p.c. less than 1901, amount of new business written in 1902 about \$1,300,000. Amount of increase in force \$3,500,000.

* * *

THE LONDON & LANCASHIRE gives the approximate results of the company's operations for the year 1902 as follows:—

Applications for insurance during the year amounted to	\$1,050,000
New premiums	38,500
Insurance in force	9,433,500
Income	455,000

The company will have a very satisfactory report, the expense ratio being brought down to about 20 p.c.

* * *

MR. S. P. STEARNS, OF THE EQUITABLE LIFE, reports an increase of business for 1902 in his branch. The head office, New York, reports:—

Income	\$ 68,000,000
New assurance	275,000,000
Assets	360,000,000
Total insurance	1,290,000,000