boiler insurance. A fire insurance company, however, cannot also transact life insurance.

RECENT GROWTH OF CANADIAN PREMIUMS.

There has been a remarkable growth since 1904 in the (net) premium incomes of the fire insurance companies licensed by the Dominion Government, as shown below:—

	1904	1914	1918
Canadian Companies. .	$2,681,274	$5,016,654	$5,570,095
British Companies. .	8,343,664	13,710,908	18,658,712
American and French. . .	2,144,941	8,771,599	11,725,601
	$13,160,879	$27,499,161	$35,954,408

UNLICENSED INSURANCE

There has also, one regrets to note, been a considerable increase in the amount of insurance placed outside of Canada in companies not licensed to do business in Canada. This business amounted to $318,763,720 (in amounts insured) during 1918 (the latest figures available), as compared with $283,423,680 in 1917. If the average rate paid to the fire companies in Canada for 1918 (namely, $1.06) could properly be used as a basis upon which to estimate the premiums upon this unlicensed insurance (in so far as it has been reported to the Dominion Government) it would in 1919 reach no less a sum that $3,378,895.. Up to date failure has attended all efforts to make these outside companies bear a fair share of the cost of running the country which in all fairness they should do—particularly as they escape paying anything for office rents, salaries, etc., in the Dominion.

INCREASE IN LICENSED COMPANIES.

The following table shows the number of fire insurance companies operating in Canada under Dominion licenses at the close of the years 1904, 1914 and 1918, respectively:

	1904	1914	1918
Canadian.	10	24	28
British	19	24	36
Foreign.	9*	34†	50‡
	38	82	114

*U. S. companies only.
†31 U. S. companies, 3 French companies.
‡46 U. S. companies, 4 French companies.

According to the latest official list issued by the Dominion Insurance Department, dated October 4, 1919, the number of companies now operating in Canada under Dominion fire licenses is 128.

Of the 28 companies operating at the end of 1918 and classified above as "Canadian," 11 are owned and operated by British companies. Besides the companies which operate under Dominion licenses, there is a large number which do business in a single province only under licenses issued by that province.

FIRE INSURANCE RATES STEADILY DECREASING.

In these days when one hears so much about the decrease in the purchasing power of the dollar and the increase in the cost of almost everything purchasable, it is pertinent and enlightening to point out in that in Canada to-day the dollar actually buys more fire insurance protection than it did in prewar days. This is evidenced by the following table, which shows the rates paid in the Dominion during the last five years for each $100 of amount insured:

1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
$1.17	$1.16	$1.09	$1.07	$1.06

It is of even greater interest to glance at similar figures for the ten years preceding 1914, viz:

1907	1905	1906	1907	1908
$1.60	$1.60	$1.53	$$1.50	$1.50
1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
$1.41	$1.36	$1.35	$1.29	$1.21

While the chief causes contributing to these remarkable reductions in rates have been the improvements that have taken place in building construction, fire brigades, water pressure, etc., and the increases that have been made in the number of sprinkler equipments, etc., it cannot be gainsaid that the present rates are inadequate to provide for the ever-growing expenditures for salaries, clerical and other services, supplies, inspections and (heaviest advance of all) the increasing taxes imposed by Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments—and in addition to permit the companies set aside the Reserves which they should be enabled to do to provide for heavy conflagrations. In this connection it may be pointed out that the companies in making up their rates are never able to make any adequate provision for conflagrations. In spite of the comfortable feeling on the part of the citizens of every community that a conflagration will never occur in their midst, the dread of such a disaster is ever present in the mind of the prudent underwriter and must be taken into consideration by him when he gives away a portion of his premiums to his reinsuring companies for the purpose of covering the excess of his own net lines.

THE STRIKE IN WINNIPEG.

The great strike in Winnipeg, which lasted from May 1st to June 25th, caused serious concern and great uneasiness to the fire insurance companies. This strike was participated in by street car men, civic and postal employees, railway men, telegraphers, as well as the building and metal and other trades. It is particularly regretable to have