

BRITISH FIRE INSURANCE RETURNS

Analysis of Twenty-one Companies' Figures—Majority of Them Operate in Canada

Twenty-four British fire insurance companies did business in Canada last year. Three of the number wrote new and renewed old business in excess of \$100,000,000. These were the Commercial Union, the Liverpool and London and Globe, and the Royal Insurance companies. The net amount at risk by British companies in the Dominion at the end of 1914 was \$1,736,187,120.

In its analysis of the experience of the British fire insurance companies, the London Times says:—

"A year ago the premium income of twenty-one leading offices reached the sum of £27,245,583, the largest total ever recorded; this year the figures are reduced by £290,053 to £26,955,480, a decrease of little more than 1 per cent.—trifling when the difficulties of the year are taken into account. With the outbreak of war premiums were no longer received from Austria and Germany, which explains, to a large extent, at any rate, the remarkable decrease in the income of the North British, a 'millionaire' company, which had important branches in Berlin and Vienna, and carried on there a large amount of direct business. These branches, on the outbreak of war, were compulsorily closed, while the company had to liquidate its liabilities in each country.

Total Surplus was Disappointing.

"It is satisfactory to learn from the chairman's speech that as far as Germany and Austria are concerned the North British started this year with an absolutely clean slate. As regards volume of premium income, the Royal again easily holds first place, with an income of well over £4,000,000; the Commercial Union stands out among its friends with an increase of nearly £177,000, thereby raising its premium income to more than £3,500,000, while the Liverpool and London and Globe takes third place with an income of nearly £3,100,000.

"More important, though, than increases or decreases in premium income is the surplus, i.e., the excess of premiums over the claims paid and the expenses incurred during the year and the total is somewhat disappointing. This surplus is actually less than half that realized in 1913, having declined from £3,272,000 to nearly £1,500,000. The percentage of the surplus on the total premium income of twenty-one offices was thus only 5.5, as compared with 12 in 1912, 9.4 in 1911, 16.2 in 1910 and 15 in 1909. Last year an extraordinarily unfavorable experience in the United States was mainly responsible for the comparatively poor results, an experience which left the Alliance and British Law—companies that do not operate there—scathless.

Good or Bad American Business.

"The Alliance's surplus is only slightly below the excellent figure of 1913, while the British Law, with its small and carefully chosen home business, has considerably improved upon its previous figures. American business is usually either very good or very bad. The Commercial Union records the gratifying surplus of £342,000, though the figure is a decrease of £140,000; the Royal earned well over £250,000, a decrease of £210,000, and the London and Lancashire £145,000, a fall of £132,000.

"The Law Union shows the high percentage of 14 on a small account. Substantial surpluses are also shown by the Atlas, Guardian, Liverpool and London and Globe, London, Northern, Norwich Union, Phoenix, Royal Exchange, Scottish Union, Sun and Yorkshire, but no one would maintain that in view of the immense capital employed and the risks involved a total surplus of 5½ per cent. can be regarded as an adequate return."

UNRELAXING VICILANCE AND SAFETY

"The navy so far has been denied the grim and glorious fight, but it is through its unrelaxing vigilance and the supreme skill with which it has been handled that this country to-day can laugh at the scare of an invasion, and that we to an extent unknown by any other of the belligerent powers are immune from the actual ravages and dangers of war."—Premier Asquith, in the British House of Commons last week.

BIGGEST LOAN ON RECORD

Prospectus and a Typical Advertisement of the British War Loan—Canadian War Finance

The largest financial transaction on record is the description which may properly be applied to the recent British war loan. With that fact in view, *The Monetary Times* reproduces on another page the prospectus and one of the British government's advertisements of the loan, both published extensively in the financial and daily press throughout the United Kingdom. This document is being kept by Britishers throughout the Empire as an historical souvenir.

Subscriptions amounting to £600,000,000 were received when the lists closed on July 10th. This amount has since been increased by numerous small subscriptions through the post-offices of the country. Through that channel, up to July 13th, 437,000 persons had subscribed £15,000,000 (\$75,000,000).

Through the Bank of England the total number of subscribers was 550,000, their contributions aggregating £570,000,000 (\$2,850,000,000).

Largest Ever Subscribed.

"This gigantic total," said chancellor of the exchequer McKenna, "represents only new money. It does not include any stock which will be issued for the purpose of conversion. This huge sum of nearly £600,000,000—far and away the largest amount subscribed in the history of the world—has only been obtained by the patriotic response of the whole people. It is a declaration to our enemies and to our Allies that this united government will prove faithful to its trust and to the cause of the Allies."

Last autumn Mr. Lloyd George said: "The last few hundred millions may win this war," adding that it was not a question of resources of men merely, but of cash, too. "We have won with the silver bullet before," was his remark.

Canadian War Finance.

Canadian financing has been carried on very satisfactorily since the outbreak of war. According to the records of *The Monetary Times*, loans of \$178,416,628 have been placed this year to the end of July. These were sold in the following markets: \$106,547,772 in the United States; \$30,693,856 in Canada; and \$41,175,000 in Great Britain. Last month Canada made a loan of \$45,000,000 in New York, which was the first Dominion loan on record in that market. Canadian war financing has been arranged with the British government, which has advanced \$10,000,000 monthly to the Dominion. To the end of July approximately \$100,000,000 had been received in that way.

CANADIAN LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

Of the 102 international bodies whose activities extend into the Dominion, 79 have benefit features on a varying scale. The total disbursements during 1914 by the various international organizations amounted to \$12,837,987, being divided for each class of benefit as follows:—Death benefits, \$8,864,631; strike benefits, \$1,953,350; sick benefits, \$963,353; accident benefits, \$635,580; old age pensions, \$266,395; unemployed benefits, \$97,392; travelling benefits, \$47,286.

Of the non-international bodies three reported having made payments on account of benefits, the total disbursements amounting to \$8,266.75.

Included in the report is a chapter containing a discussion of the bearing of the European war on various aspects of trade unionism, which includes also the text of deliverances of representative labor organizations in different countries with respect to war in general or having special reference to the present war. And in another a discussion of some of the leading features of the organizations composed of workmen employed in the mining industry, including a brief history of their development and difficulties is found.

Particulars of every known local trade union in Canada are given, and also a list of international and non-international central organizing bodies, together with the names and addresses of the chief executive officers.