PALATINE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED.

The Palatine Insurance Company Limited, an English organisation transacting fire insurance only and having the advantage of close association with the Commercial Union Assurance Company Limited, reports for 1916 a premium income of $2,566,135, an increase of $66,000 upon the premiums of 1915. Losses were somewhat heavier than in the preceding year, calling for $1,626,850, a proportion of 63.4 per cent. of premiums. At the end of the year, the Company's fire fund stood at $2,670,875, which with the balance on profit and loss account of $144,100 makes a total of $2,814,975 available for the protection of the Company's policyholders—a ratio to premium income of about 110 per cent. Total assets of the Palatine amount to $4,833,625, the bulk being invested in the highest grade of securities.

While the Palatine itself thus affords very fine security to its policyholders, the latter are further protected by the guarantee of the Commercial Union Assurance Company Limited, with its magnificent prestige and assets exceeding $151,-600,000,. In the Canadian field, the Palatine is under the experienced management of Mr. James McGregor, of Montreal, Mr. W. S. Jopling being the assistant manager. The Company's Canadian fire premium income in 1916 amounted to $276,444, a growth of nearly $30,000 over the preceding year, and net losses incurred to $210,883. The exceptionally fine security offered by the Palatine to its policyholders should appeal forcibly to all Canadian insurers.

INSURANCE COMPANIES' DEPOSITS.

On May 1st, 1917, the companies licensed by the Dominion Insurance Department for the transaction of business in Canada had deposited with the Receiver-General, for the protection of Canadian policyholders, securities to the value of $96,832,110, an increase of over $7,000,000 in comparison with the total reported a year previously. Of these, Canadian municipal securities represented $54,957,-228; Canadian government securities, $12,761,314 (an increase in the twelve months of over $7,500,000); Canadian railway securities guaranteed, $11,218,606; Canadian provincial securities, $10,453,202; loan companies' debentures, $1,214,600. The balance comprises British, colonial, and foreign bonds of various kinds. The large increase reported in deposits of Canadian Government securities is, of course, a result of the legislation making new deposits in these securities compulsory.

The companies had also deposited with Canadian trustees at the same date, $28,870,977, making a total of $125,703,088 deposited for the protection of policyholders, an increase since the last report of $6,557,255. The distribution of the total sum held for the protection of policyholders among the different classes of insurance companies is as follows:—life, $91,294,232; fire, $14,801,236; fire and miscellaneous, $15,922,885; accident, guarantee, plate glass, etc., $3,684,734.

Holland is setting out to meet its war loan charges through the profits to be derived from a state monopoly of fire and life insurance, estimated at $6,000,000 a year. The Dutch are taking a big chance.

WHY NOT QUEBEC?

To our insurance friends in the States who are considering the question of automobile trips at this time of year, we make the suggestion that Montreal and Quebec offer interesting objectives for over-the-border tours. The Quebec provincial government has in recent years followed a highly progressive policy in the matter of good roads and as a result of free expenditures, there is now available for motorists in the province of Quebec, a series of roads unsurpassed in Canada, and comparing favourably with any to be found elsewhere on this continent. In this matter, at least, Quebec province is well ahead of Ontario and the rest of Canada. Motorists from the other side of the line, also, will find that border troubles for them are non-existent. Needless to say, insurance visitors from the States, who care to visit down-town Montreal, will receive a cordial welcome from Canadian confrères.

RATE OF PREMIUMS ON FIRE RISKS.

The average rate of premiums charged per cent. of risks taken by the fire companies holding Dominion licenses was again reduced last year. The average rate for the whole of the companies in 1916 was 1.09 against 1.16 in 1915. The Canadian companies' average rate was 1.19 against 1.25; the British companies, 1.08 against 1.17, U. S. and other companies, 1.04 against 1.08. In 1914 the average rate for all the companies was 1.17; in 1913, 1.21; in 1912, 1.29; in 1911, 1.35 and in 1910, 1.36. In 1905 it was 1.60. Thus in eleven years, the average rate has decreased 0.51 per cent., indicating that fire underwriters have been ready to give practical credit for improvements in protection and construction.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

FIRE AT CACHE BAY, ONT.

By the fire which occurred on the 8th instant on the premises of George Gordon and Co., Saw Mill, the following companies are interested:—Queen, $2,500; Liverpool and London and Globe, $2,500; Phœnix of London, $2,500; Norwich Union, $2,500; Total $10,000. Loss total.

AMHERST, N.S.—Pattern storage room of International Engineering Works destroyed, July 11.

SOUTH LANCASTER, ONT.—Pile of pine lumber, valued at $3,000, at sawmills of St. Lawrence Lumber and Box Co. destroyed, July 11.

Mr. A. S. Low, formerly cashier of the Western branch of the Northern Assurance Company at Winnipeg, was recently killed in action in France. Mr. Low joined the Company in 1912, and his death is much regretted by his colleagues.

* * *

Almost every adjuster has had information something like this: "Absolute knowledge I have none, but a neighbor's counsin's husband's chum heard a man say that he would bet that Smith's fire was purposely set."—*Glens Falls Now and Then.*

* * *

"Save the waste and win the war." That applies to the fire waste as well as to foodstuffs.—*Insurance Post.*