

DOMINION FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual statement of the Dominion Fire Insurance Company for the year 1918 published on another page shows a continuance of most satisfactory and steady progress no doubt due to its capable and conservative management. For the year under review the Company's gross premiums amounted to \$572,818 less re-insurance and rebates leaves net premiums of \$358,492 figuring a loss ratio of 46.3 per cent. The gross premiums and losses bear almost the same ratio as net, a rather unusual underwriting exhibit, but decidedly commendable. The above favourable loss ratio compares with a loss ratio of 54.23 per cent. in 1917.

The Dominion Fire's Assets totalled \$511,413 at December 31st last, a growth of no less than \$84,555. War Loan bonds forms \$195,000 of the total and gilt edge municipal securities, Bank and other high grade stocks form the balance. Such a statement is highly creditable to the directorate and management, and in keeping with the desirable reputation the Company has acquired for prompt payment and adjustment of claims.

The following Directors were elected at the annual meeting—President, Major Robert F. Massie, D.S.O., Toronto; vice-president, Philip Pocock, London; R. S. Cassels, K.C., Toronto; George J. Cuthbertson, Montreal; R. J. Hutchings, Calgary; Robert Kelly, Vancouver; Emile Ostiguy, Montreal; Neil W. Renwick, Toronto; Dr. Thaddeus Walker, Walkerville; Montreal gaining one on the directorate by the election of George J. Cuthbertson, manager, Board of Trade branch, Bank of Toronto.

The active management of this growing Canadian Institution is in the hands of Major Robert F. Massie, D.S.O., president, and Neil W. Renwick, secretary.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

Fire at Alberton, P.E.I.—On the 1st instant, a fire destroyed the business portion of Alberton. The fire had only a chemical engine in the way of fire apparatus and this proved unavailing. The property loss is stated to be about \$75,000 with insurance of about \$30,000. We understand this is the first fire in the history of Alberton.

Fire at Mitchellton, Sask.—On February 27th, a fire destroyed the Post Office, a general store, and premises occupied by the Security Lumber Company entailing a loss of about \$15,000.

Fire at Montreal.—On February 28th, a fire broke out in the tobacco store of A. Moquin, 55 St. Lawrence Main St., entailing a loss of about \$1,000.

Fire at Montreal.—On the 4th instant, a fire broke out in the premises of the Canadian Ex-

press Co., corner of St. James and Mountain St. Loss about \$1,000.

Fire at Shawinigan Falls, P.Q.—On February 27th, a fire broke out in the business section of Shawinigan Falls, destroying a block of about ten stores, chiefly occupied by Syrians dry goods merchants. The insurance loss involved exceeds \$78,000. The following companies are interested: North British & Mer., \$2,000; Commerce Mutual, \$55,000; Beurrerie Fromagerie, \$2,000; London & Lancashire, \$2,000; Sun, \$4,000; Rochester, \$5,000; London Mutual, \$8,500; British Colonial, \$2,500; Sterling, \$688; Stanstead & Sherbrooke, \$5,500; Yorkshire, \$6,000; Firemen's Fund, \$2,000; Strathcona, \$6,500; Springfield, \$2,000; Factories, \$3,000; Northern, \$3,000; St. Lawrence Und., \$1,000; Occidental, \$2,000; Home, \$1,000; Phenix of Paris, \$1,000; Atlas, \$2,000; Union of Paris, \$2,000; Nor. Union, \$1,500; North American, \$1,500; Phoenix of London, \$3,000; Western, \$2,000. Total, \$87,188. Loss about total. The fire is stated to have been due to a defective furnace.

NEW BRUNSWICK TOWNS' FIRE RATES INCREASED.

Fire losses in the Maritime Provinces have been heavy for some years, and the New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters has made the following announcement in connection the proposed increase of rates.

Mercantile fire insurance rates will be advanced 10 per cent. on April 1 in communities which have not been rated under the so-called Larter and Lemmon system. In places which have been rated there will be no change on that date. In the latter list are St. John, West St. John, Moncton, Lewisville, Humphrey's Mills, Sunny Brae, Dalhousie, Campbellton, Newcastle, Fredericton, North Devon and South Devon. The New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters has notified the numerous places affected. The board started out last year to rate the province under the new system, which grades the towns. Engineers report on each town, using the National Board schedule, which gives credit for all fire protection there is and defects in construction of buildings. The schedule is based on the charges on this grading by the engineers and is a very slow process.

The consequence is that only a few towns have so far been rated under it, but all will be eventually. In the meantime the New Brunswick board has put on an increase of 10 per cent. on the mercantile risks in towns and villages not already rated under this system, which will be removed when the more scientific rating is made. The best engineers in America were engaged to grade St. John, Moncton and Halifax, and their methods and skill were used by local engineers to grade the smaller towns so as to arrive at a basis for the rating.