

TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford, Connecticut, a company which has been transacting business in Canada almost from the date of its establishment in the early sixties of the last century, reports great progress in the year 1916. This progress is not only conspicuous in regard to the amount of new business written in a year when circumstances were admittedly extremely favorable for the American companies in this connection, but is chiefly found in relation to the important matter of gain in business in force in proportion to new business. The Travelers' increase in insurance in force last year was over 71 per cent. of the new business written and in fact more than 20 per cent. of the amount in force at the beginning of 1916. These ratios are remarkable in the case of an old-established institution, and are strikingly illustrative of the high grade of business written by the Company's representatives.

Paid-for new business during the year totalled \$113,931,776, an advance over the previous year of \$35,510,321, insurance in force being increased to \$476,315,842, a gain of no less than \$81,500,637, and representing an annual premium income of \$13,660,494. The total paid premiums of the year from all branches of the Company's business amounted to \$32,132,778, indicating a gain of more than six million dollars over the preceding year. Outside of the life insurance branch the premiums were contributed as follows: Workmen's compensation, \$7,885,307; liability, \$5,141,727; personal accident, \$4,493,546, and health, \$946,704. Each of these miscellaneous lines showed an increase, the greatest recorded being \$2,338,137 for workmen's compensation. The total income of the company amounted to \$37,051,500, an advance upon the preceding year of \$6,351,743.

LARGE INCREASE IN ASSETS.

Practically eleven million dollars were added to the assets of the Travelers' last year, bringing their total up to \$115,095,273, which is more than twice as large as the amount held ten years ago. After making provision for all liabilities upon the most ample scale, the Company reports a surplus to policyholders of \$14,956,982, a gain during the year of \$1,148,180. The amount paid by the Travelers' to policyholders up to the end of 1916 is no less than \$176,594,346 and additionally \$3,060,377 has been paid for prevention of accidents by inspection.

The Travelers Indemnity Company, which is under the same management, also experienced a prosperous year and increased its premium income by \$584,379. The total premiums received amounted to \$1,804,610, while the total income was \$1,934,201. The Travelers Indemnity has assets of \$3,574,256, giving a surplus to policyholders of \$1,696,414.

Mr. F. F. Parkins of Montreal is the chief agent in Canada of both companies, which transact in the Dominion a large and increasing business, both in life insurance and in subsidiary lines of miscellaneous business. The Travelers has invested largely in Canadian securities and in this and other ways identified itself with Canadian sentiment. The excellent results achieved by the Company last year were contributed to substantially by the Canadian organisation and in view of the Company's fine position, those actively associated with the Company here should have little difficulty in persuading prospects to "insure in the Travelers."

ANOTHER FRATERNAL TO RAISE RATES.

The Canadian Order of Foresters, an assessment fraternal society with head office at Brantford, Ont., and an extensive system of branches, proposes to raise its rates. Extensive newspaper advertising has lately broken the news to members. This advertising quite cleverly attempts to sugar-coat a bitter pill, but the fact remains that the Society is compelled to raise its rates to become actuarially solvent, and that some of the members are going to suffer pretty severely in the process. The proposals, which are to be brought before the High Court of the Order in June, and are apparently endorsed by Mr. Abb Landis, an American actuary, provide for a general raising of rates and give two options to existing members. The first is a term insurance, graded according to age, at the existing rates of assessment. The second option gives to all members, no matter when admitted, the right to paid-up insurance at the age of 70, according to an actuarial schedule, when such members do not desire to continue to pay the life rates. Evidently, the old fellows who have hitherto been paying inadequate assessments are going to have a bad time of it. Term insurance for a very few years is not exactly conducive to peace of mind in old age, and the alternative probably means the cutting down of protection to a very small fraction of what it had hitherto been supposed to be.

At the end of 1915, the Canadian Order of Foresters had \$90,000,000 business in force under 911,046 contracts. The holders of these contracts have been leaning on a broken reed. It would have been more decent for those in charge of the Order to say so frankly, instead of wasting members' money in advertising stupid stuff about the Society's splendid record and taking credit to themselves for proposing a course to which they are compelled, if the Society is to be preserved upon a sound basis.

ROYAL CANADIAN REGIMENT.

This Regiment is composed of Canadian Regulars and as the men are drawn from all parts of the Dominion no one city is specially interested in supplying them with comforts. They have a splendid record—fifteen months' fighting in France during which time they had three very important engagements with specially heavy casualties.

The Regiment is much in need of socks, particularly in the present condition of the trenches. Anyone desiring to contribute these comforts may send them direct to Col. Hill, Officer Commanding Royal Canadian Regiment, Canadian Corps Troops, British Expeditionary Force, France, or if they are sent to Mr. J. Gardner Thompson, 343 Dorchester St. West, Montreal, he will see that they are despatched to Col. Hill with the donors' names attached.

Those who prefer to send cash subscriptions may do so and Mr. Thompson undertakes to expend such donations in the purchase of socks which will be forwarded.

Inter-insurance is more than well named because there is so much of the actual inside information and financial condition of many of these concerns which remains forever an unopened book, even to those who have entrusted their hopes for indemnity to its gracious benevolence.—*Rough Notes.*