

members for the purpose of enabling it to pay notes given for losses incurred previous to their joining the Company. This attempt to assess having proved futile, and the Company possessing no *available* assets besides its premium notes—for its Government *Deposit* can only be applied *pro rata* towards payment of authenticated claims against it and unearned cash premiums—the ancient promissory notes of the Company—the “money borrowed” by it in days of yore—virtually cease to figure among its liabilities.

THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The full report of the annual meeting of the Royal, held at Liverpool on the first inst., will be found on page 195. This report contains some features of more than ordinary interest, and some of the remarks made by the Chairman are well worthy of perusal. A cursory glance at the statement will suffice to show that the Royal has passed through the fiery elements of 1883, not only holding its own, but also presenting remarkably favorable results on the year's operations.

The Royal was established in 1845, and has within comparatively few years become an institution, which, for progressiveness, stability, resources and extent of operations has not been excelled in the history of fire insurance. Its income derived from fire premiums alone has almost reached five million dollars per annum, whilst its total funds, fire and life, (including the increased or market value of its investments over their book valuation) amounted to the magnificent sum of about twenty-eight million dollars on the 31st of December, 1883. These are figures which the management may justly take some pride in displaying. We do not know of any institution in existence whose name is so universally familiar as that of the Royal Insurance Company of Liverpool.

A very pleasing feature in connection with the report for 1883, is that while the fire premiums have increased by a considerable sum the fire losses have been less than those of 1882; and also that its investments have increased in value by about two millions of dollars, which sum has been wisely transferred to a new fund styled the “Conflagration Fund,” specially meant to provide against the possibility of a large conflagration, such, for instance as the Chicago and Boston fires. We do not quite see the necessity for the nomenclature for this fund, but probably it is to be found in the fact that the shareholders, who are naturally fond of getting large dividends, might otherwise object to this large extra addition to the reserve funds.

The following extract from the Chairman's speech is worthy of special notice:—“When large profits were obtained, prudence dictated the necessity of piling up large reserves, which now amount to a magnificent total. And now that we meet under changed circumstances prudence is still in the ascendant in the management of your affairs.”

In the Fire department the net premiums received in 1883 amounted to \$4,913,685, as against \$4,721,325 in 1882, showing an *increase* of \$192,360 over 1882. The net losses were \$3,017,160, as against \$3,082,220 in 1882, being \$65,060 *less* than in 1882. The following is a comparison for the past three years:—

	Premiums	Net Losses.	Expenses and Com.	P. C. of prem. in. Losses.	Exp. & com.
1881....	\$4,416,625	\$2,958,740	\$1,274,165	67	29
1882....	4,721,325	3,082,220	1,324,850	65	28.1
1883....	4,913,685	3,017,160	1,395,820	61	28.4

The fire funds now stand as follows:—reserve fund \$4,750,000; fire fund \$2,750,000; conflagration fund \$1,000,000; balance of profit and loss \$1,202,700, giving a total of \$9,702,700, exclusive of a paid-up capital of \$1,447,725, which would give a grand total of over twelve million dollars, and this of course does not include the life funds.

In the Life Department the net premiums received amounted to \$1,264,395, and the interest derived from investments was \$571,265; the expenses and commission in this branch were only 10 per cent., which bears a very favorable comparison to that of other life offices. The life funds on December 31st, 1883, amounted to \$15,075,098. The quinquennial valuation will take place at the close of the present year.

The funds of the Royal, fire and life, not including the increased value of its investments, stood as follows on December 31st 1883:—

Paid-up Capital.....	\$1,447,725
General Reserve and Fire Fund..	8,500,000
Life Funds	15,075,098
Balance of Profit and Loss.....	1,867,405

and perpetual insurance account

Being a grand total of..... **\$28,890,228**

These figures fully justify the confidence which has been extended to the Royal Insurance Company throughout the whole world. It is also worthy of note that the fire funds, independent of the capital, are equal to two years premium income, which is more than ample for all possible contingencies.

The Canadian branch of the Royal, under the able and energetic administration of Messrs. Gault & Tatley, chief agents, does the largest fire business in the Dominion, its income in 1883 being double that of any other fire office. The losses are settled promptly and with liberality. Great care has been exercised in the selection of the agents of the Royal, and consequently it has succeeded in procuring a staff of agents who would be a credit to any Company and who are distinguished for their zeal and *esprit de corps*.

The Halifax, N.S., City Council, has in its wisdom, thought it well to follow the example of Kingston and Ottawa, and impose a tax of \$200 on each fire insurance company doing business in that city. The Halifax Board is going to resist payment. We would recommend the Board not to go to the trouble of doing so, but simply follow the example of the Quebec and Ontario underwriters, and increase the rates, by say 10 per cent. Let the Halifax City Council, or any other City Council, understand that by a law as inevitable as that of gravity, the taxes imposed upon insurance companies, must be paid by the insuring public. We have in previous issues of INSURANCE SOCIETY devoted considerable space to show the absurdity of these special taxes.