CALEDONIAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

"The oldest Scottish insurance office," as the Caledonian is happily able to style itself, has now entered upon the one hundred and tenth year of its operations. Holding a position of great financial strength that is being further improved steadily from year to year, the Company has no ambitions for mere size of operations, but pursues steadily a policy of conservative progress, which over a period enables it to make very substantial headway with results that are highly satisfactory both to its policyholders and to the Company itself. Fruits of a wise policy on the part of the management were reaped last year, when the business of the Company attained particularly satisfactory levels and produced highly favorable results. While the Caledonian does not transact life business in Canada, elsewhere it has a very extensive organisation, and in 1913 this department enjoyed a record year, writing a larger amount of business than had ever before been written in one year by the Caledonian.

FIRE DEPARTMENT'S YEAR.

In its fire department, through whose operations the Caledonian is known in Canada, the Company enjoyed during 1913, a favorable experience, somewhat better than that of 1912, which was of the average kind. The net fire premiums of the year, $2,262,930, were over $37,000 larger than in 1912, and an increased interest income amounting to $60,790 made the total income on this account $2,323,720. Losses absorbed $1,171,815, being 51.78 of premiums, this experience being considerably more favorable than that of 1912, when losses absorbed $1,241,282 or 55.77 per cent. of premiums. Commission expenses and taxes took $850,010 or 37.57 p.c. of premiums. The necessary addition having been made to premium reserve to maintain it at 34 p.c. of the premium income for the year, a surplus on the year's trading of $289,260, practically $100,000 more than in 1912, is carried to the profit and loss account. This account is also swelled by the balance of general interest, so that with the balance brought forward from 1912 ($308,265), a total of $626,695 is available. Of this amount $55,000 has been placed to investment reserve. The fire funds in addition to the reserve for unexpired risks of $769,395, include $1,000,000 additional reserve and balance on profit and loss account of $571,695, a total of $2,341,090 equal to over 103 per cent. of last year's premium income.

THE CALEDONIAN IN CANADA.

In Canada, the Caledonian for the last three years has been under the management of Mr. John G. Borthwick, and substantial progress has been made by the Company in this field during that period. Last year a favorable experience was enjoyed, there being a slightly increased premium income over 1912. Since the Caledonian is one of the best known of the British offices transacting business here, the steady forward movement on the part of the Canadian management should have in the future, excellent results.

THE BANK OF MONTREAL.

The Bank of Montreal's profits for the six months ended April 30, were $1,212,751, compared with $1,299,646 for the corresponding half-year of 1913 and equal to earnings of 15.16 per cent. per annum upon the paid-pu capital or 7.58 per cent. per annum upon the capital and reserve funds combined. The lower earnings would be accounted for by the Bank's policy in keeping very large amounts of funds in liquid form at the leading financial centres, where they earn but very small interest at call compared with the rates obtainable on commercial loans in Canada. The total available on profit and loss account, including balance forward at October 31 last, of $1,046,218, is $2,258,968. Of this amount two quarters' dividends at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum absorb $800,000 and the one per cent. bonus payable on June 1st next, $160,000—in all $960,000. Bank premises are provided for by an allocation of $200,000, and the increased balance of $1,098,968 is carried forward.

THE BANK'S BALANCE SHEET.

The following are the leading figures of the Bank's present half-yearly balance sheet in comparison with those of the corresponding half years of 1913 and 1912:—

	1914.	1913.	1912.
Capital Stock........	$16,000,000	$16,000,000	$15,975,220
Rest...............	16,000,000	16,000,000	16,000,000
Circulation..........	13,438,814	14,429,494	14,018,850
Deposits (not bearing interest)......	50,457,523	45,599,750	49,276,602
Deposits (bearing interest)...........	157,722,511	160,868,958	143,575,077
Total Liabilities to Public...........	225.814.855	220,981,860	206,989,430
Specie and Legals....	23,966,568	22,261,855	21,523,749
Call Loans Abroad...	86,456,203	63,880,672	59,283,009
Bank Balances Abroad..........	10,750,379	13,646,287	17,556,569
Total of Quick Assets	139,579,558	120,512,081	120,667,610
Current loans and discounts.........	117,116,406	129,457,033	115,157,030
Total Assets........	262,956,419	254,435,045	240,222,956

THE INCONSISTENT "EXPERT."

That Toronto "expert" who advises Tom, Dick and Harry on the subject of insurance—and every form of insurance—told one correspondent last week that "the prospects for any new life insurance company in Canada are very poor indeed." Further down the column another individual was loftily told that "any life insurance company permitted to use our advertising columns will be safe and satisfactory for a twenty payment endowment."

On the same page as these sage utterances appear, the advertisements of at least three life insurance companies which can fairly be described as new companies are also printed. If the prospects for new life insurance companies are "very poor indeed" in the "expert's" opinion, why are these companies "permitted" to advertise in his journal? Somehow theory and practice hardly seem to hang together.