

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA.

The Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada enjoyed in 1904 a similar favourable experience to that of several other life companies operating in the Dominion, its business for the past year having been decidedly in advance of those in any previous year in the Company's history.

Life assurance companies are brought by the very nature of their business into such intimate association with the general economic conditions of the country as to be one of the gauges by which those conditions are indicated. Whether insurance be a form of trade or not, is held to be a debatable question, but it is manifest that when trade is prosperous insurance shares in the benefits conferred thereby on the community at large.

The company's income last year was derived from the following sources, premiums, including renewals, \$3,443,407; annuities, \$256,943; accident, \$137; thrift premiums, \$92,819; interest, \$729,267; rents, \$17,357; profit on sale of securities, \$22,383; the aggregate income less reassurances being \$4,561,936. The disbursements were, death claims, \$755,187; matured endowments, \$236,236; annuity payments, \$80,357; cash profits paid to policyholders, \$117,238; surrender values, \$183,398; expense account, \$383,448; commissions, \$590,377; these, with other outlays incident to the business, made the total disbursements of \$2,488,784, which, being deducted from \$4,561,936, the total income, left \$2,073,152, as the Surplus of income over Disbursements. The total assets on 31st December last are stated to have been \$17,851,760, of which \$8,641,579 is made up of bonds, \$2,253,303 of stocks, \$2,529,160, mortgage loans, \$1,477,808, loans of the company's policies, \$1,146,643, real estate owned, including the Company's buildings, \$543,250 loans on banks and stocks, and the balance consists of cash in hand and in banks, and amounts of various kinds due to the company.

The liabilities comprise, reserves on life policies, according to the Hm. table with 4 per cent. interest on policies issued prior to 31st December, 1899, and 3½ per cent. on those issued thereafter, \$15,294,247; annuity reserves, \$990,738; these two accounts, less \$2,621 reserves on policies reassured, and miscellaneous items of \$289,950 make a total of \$16,572,314. The difference between this amount and the total assets is \$1,279,446, which sum represents the surplus over all liabilities, except capital. According to the Dominion Government standard the net surplus over all liabilities and capital stock is \$1,752,755.

The Sun Life of Canada has now life assurance in force to extent of \$85,327,662, which exceeds the total at end of 1903 by \$9,646,473, and surpasses the amount in 1896 by \$47,130,772.

The directors may well consider that all interested

in the Company are to be congratulated upon the position which is revealed by the statement for 1904.

M. J. C. Stanton, Jr., is manager of the City of Montreal branch which contributed a large quota in the volume of business for 1904.

HISTORIC CONFLAGRATIONS.

The following list of conflagrations which are on record as having occurred in England, Canada, United States, Belgium, Germany, Norway, South Africa, Newfoundland and Australia was compiled by Mr. John B. Laidlaw, for the paper read before the Insurance Institutes of Toronto and Montreal. A remarkable feature in the schedule is the absence of any record of conflagrations in the 18th century. There is a blank between 1666 and 1835, during which 169 years doubtless conflagrations took place of which the records are not available. The United States fires in above list amount to \$403,776,000, those in England, \$116,500,000, in Canada, \$53,100,000, in Europe, \$43,600,000, in Newfoundland, \$5,000,000:

Place.	Date.	Acreage Burned over.	Loss.
London, Eng.	Sept. 1st to 9th. 1666.	436	£18,000,000
New York, U.S.A.	Dec. 16th, 1835.	60	\$15,000,000
Hamburg, Germany.	May 4th, 1842.	300	£ 7,000,000
Liverpool, Eng.	Sept., 1842.	.....	£ 700,000
Quebec, Que.	May 28th, 1845.	.....	.....
New York, U.S.A.	July 19th, 1845.	20	\$ 6,000,000
St. John's, Nfld.	June 9th, 1846.	.....	£ 1,000,000
Brooklyn, N.Y.	Sept. 9th, 1848.	15	.....
St. Louis, Mo.	May 18th, 1849.	.....	.....
San Francisco, Cal.	Dec. 24th, 1849.	.....	\$ 1,250,000
Sacramento, Cal.	Nov. 12th, 1852.	.....	\$ 5,000,000
Toronto, Canada.	April 7th, 1849.	15	\$ 500,000
San Francisco, Cal.	May 3rd, 1851.	.....	\$ 3,500,000
San Francisco, Cal.	June 22nd, 1851.	.....	\$ 3,000,000
Montreal, Canada.	July 8th, 1852.	350	\$ 5,000,000
Gateshead, England.	Oct. 5th, 1854.	.....	£ 1,000,000
London, England.	June 22nd, 1861.	.....	£ 1,000,000
Portland, Maine.	July 4th, 1866.	.....	\$10,000,000
Jersey City, N.J.	Aug. 19th, 1856.	.....	\$ 2,000,000
Antwerp, Belgium.	August, 1866.	.....	\$ 1,500,000
Quebec, Que.	Oct. 14th, 1866.	300	\$ 3,000,000
Albany, N.Y.	1868.	.....	\$ 3,000,000
Charleston, S.C.	1868.	.....	\$ 3,000,000
Philadelphia, Pa.	Aug. 4th, 1869.	.....	\$ 3,500,000
Chicago, Ill.	Sept. 4th, 1870.	.....	\$ 2,500,000
Chicago, Ill.	Oct. 9th, 1871.	2,500	\$165,000,000
Chicago, Ill.	July 14th, 1874.	60	\$5,000,000
Boston, Mass.	Nov. 9th, 1872.	80	\$75,000,000
St. Hyacinthe, Que.	Sept. 3rd, 1876.	100	\$ 1,250,000
St. Johns, Que.	June 18th, 1876.	.....	\$ 1,000,000
St. John, N.B.	June 20th, 1877.	350	\$15,000,000
Quebec, Que.	June 8th, 1881.	50	\$ 2,000,000
Lynn, Mass.	Nov. 26th, 1889.	60	.....
Spokane, Wash.	August, 1889.	.....	\$ 4,800,000
Seattle, Wash.	June, 1889.	.....	\$ 6,626,000
Boston, Mass.	Nov. 28th, 1889.	33	\$ 4,000,000
Boston, Mass.	Mar. 10th, 1893.	23	\$3,000,000
St. John's, Nfld.	July 8th, 1892.	150	.....
Milwaukee, Wis.	Oct. 28th, 1892.	46	\$ 2,300,000
Nottingham, England.	Nov. 17th, 1894.	.....	\$ 700,000
Pittsburg, Pa.	May, 1897.	.....	.....
Windsor, Nova Scotia.	Oct. 17th, 1897.	150	\$ 1,500,000
London.	Nov. 19th, 1897.	4	.....
Melbourne, Australia.	1897.	5	\$ 4,000,000
Sunderland, England.	July 18th, 1898.	.....	£ 800,000
New Westminster, B.C.	Sept. 10th, 1898.	.....	.....
Hull and Ottawa.	April 26th, 1900.	800	\$ 7,500,000
Antwerp, Belgium.	June 5th, 1901.	6	\$ 3,100,000
Montreal.	Jan. 23rd, 1901.	5	\$ 3,000,000
Jacksonville, Florida.	May 3rd, 1901.	.....	\$10,000,000
Sydney, Nova Scotia.	Oct. 9th, 1901.	8	\$ 400,000
Paterson, N.J.	Feb. 8th, 1902.	40	\$ 6,000,000