NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Occupying a prominent position, in the front rank of the largest British fire offices, the Northern is noted for its skilful and successful fire Underwriting. But no amount of care in selection, or judgment in distribution of risks can prevent an occasional bad year from marring the customary prosperity of a well-managed company.

The Eighty-Second Annual Report of the Company, and the fourth report issued under war conditions, reflects in various ways (as the chairman remarked) the abnormal state of the world at the present time. While the fire premiums of the Northern for 1917 was the largest in its history, amounting to $8,439,570 as against $7,177,600 in the preceding year, an increase of no less than $1,261,970, the abnormal conditions referred to, are reflected in the losses which amounted to $4,626,460, as compared with $3,607,045 in 1916, an increase of $1,019,415, a loss ratio of 54.8 per cent. compared with 50.3 per cent for 1916 against 51.4 per cent in 1915. The chief factors in the adverse experience of the fire department for last year were the Salonica conflagration, and the unusually bad experience of fire companies operating in the United States during 1917.

Expenses showed a satisfactory decrease constituting a ratio of 35.1 per cent. as compared with 37.4 per cent. the preceding year, and 37.8 per cent. in 1915. Any decrease in working expenses under present circumstances may be regarded as particularly commendable, in view of the increase in taxation, in addition to the substantial advance for supplies and services of all kinds, and which are likely to remain so for many years.

Policyholders of the Northern enjoy excellent security. The reserve for unexpired risks is maintained at the very high standard of 50 per cent. of the premium income, and now amount to $4,219,785, an increase of $630,985, and in addition a conflagration reserve of $6,000,000 is held. So that the fire funds of the Northern, including the balance of profit and loss account of $878,950 amount altogether to $11,098,735, apart altogether from the large subscribed capital, of which $4,008,635 is paid up. The total assets are now $54,724,460.

During recent years the Northern has displayed remarkable enterprise by the absorption of a number of sound undertakings, in other sections of the insurance field, the most important of which are the Provident Accident and Guarantee, and the "Indemnity Mutual Marine", both of which will be included in the accounts next year. The Northern owning the whole shares of the "White Cross", "National Guarantee" and "Royal Scottish" offices, these accounts were embodied in the balance sheet, and the whole expenses in connection with the purchase of these companies has been written off. The Northern has reached its present commanding position by cautious enterprise and able judgment which we prophecy will advance its position still higher amongst the largest insurance offices in the world, in the near future. The total income of the affiliated companies for the year 1917 amounted to nearly $20,000,000 with results from operations entirely satisfactory.

The Northern in Canada.

The Northern has been operating in Canada for over half a century in the fire business, with a strong organization, and an enviable reputation for fair and liberal treatment of its policyholders. Mr. George E. Moberly, its Canadian manager since Sept., 1916, has been connected with the company for a period extending over 25 years, and under his management considerable expansion has been noticeable, in keeping with the company's fine financial standing. Last year's net fire premiums received in Canada totalled $865,048 compared with $761,895 in the preceding year, a substantial increase of $103,153. The losses incurred amounted to $516,731, constituting a loss ratio of 59.73 per cent. as compared with 76.77 per cent. in 1916, a notable improvement.

EAGLE STAR AND BRITISH DOMINIONS INSURANCE COMPANY ABSORBS THE BRITISH CROWN INSURANCE CO.

It is officially announced this week, that the Eagle Star, and British Dominions Insurance Co., has absorbed the British Crown Insurance Co.

The amalgamation (according to the latest information), has been unanimously approved of by the shareholders interested, and all policies of the British Crown will in future be fully guaranteed by the Eagle Star and British Dominions.

It is well known that the Eagle Star and British Dominions Insurance Company occupies a position in the front rank of the largest British offices having assets exceeding $61,000,000. The policyholders of the British Crown (which we understand will operate as a separate company) will henceforward enjoy greatly enhanced security.

SEVERE SENTENCE FOR ARSON.

Hilton and Robert Green, fishermen, residing on the shores of Devil Lake, near Newboro, Ont., were last week sentenced to ten and two years respectively in Kingston penitentiary for burning four cottages, and stealing some of the contents.

As a result of a fire inquest, conducted by Superintendent Rogers, of Brockville, the arrests were made, and both prisoners took a summary trial, and pleaded guilty after a clear case had been made against them.

The prisoners are said to have been prompted to the crime by spite against the cottagers, whose presence on the lake is said to have interfered with the practice of illegal fishing indulged in by the Green brothers. This fire was reported in last week's issue of The Chronicle, in which it was stated that the fire required investigation by the Fire Marshal.

It has been said that in the olden days the patriots bled for their country. We have some gentlemen in Canada who claim to be patriots and prove it by bleeding their country and bleeding it good and plenty.