

THE ÆTNA LIFE.

Another year has been added to the successful life of this fine old New England company, and it keeps on adding to its resources and showing further advantages to policy-holders. The annual statement of the Ætina Life Insurance Company for 1897 shows large increases in the principal departments of its business. There is an increase in accident premiums of \$145,452.33; in accident income, \$146,811.94 in surplus, \$176,371.45; in interest, \$189,207.91; in income, \$515,402.51. Then the increase in assets is \$2,027,694.96; in life business, \$5,025,957; in accident insurance, \$22,099,320. In results to its policy-holders the Ætina has achieved a record which we do not remember to have seen surpassed. The company, while modern, is conservative in its methods, but by no means slow or unprogressive.

THE JANUARY FIRE LOSS.

The fire loss of the United States and Canada for the month of January, as compiled from the daily records of the *N.Y. Journal and Bulletin of Commerce*, aggregates \$9,472,500. The year 1898 has commenced favorably as to a reduction in fire loss, as will be seen from a comparison with the figures for the month of January in the years 1896 and 1897:—

	1896.	1897.	1898.
January	\$11,040,000	\$12,049,700	\$9,472,500

During January there were 192 fires of a destructiveness of not less than \$10,000 each. The fire underwriters may congratulate themselves upon the record of the first month of the year. February, however, has opened disastrously and the losses incurred already this month do not sustain the prospects of an unusually prosperous year for the business. The unfortunate conflagration in Winnipeg will contribute no small share to the burdens which the insurance companies in Canada have been compelled to bear. The months of January and February are always of special interest to the fire underwriters, who have some apprehensions in regard to the first month of the year, fearing moral hazard on left-over holiday stocks and fires due to defects in heating apparatus brought on by cold snap in February.

LIFE ASSURANCE NOTES.

The *Medical Examiner* for January editorially remarks: "The more we consider the relation of the doctor to insurance, the more valuable his assistance appears, although there is a disposition to ignore and belittle him by other departments of a company. The doctor is one of the main factors which renders successful insurance possible." True for you, Dr. Wells.

The results of the business in Canada last year of the Standard Life Assurance Company have been, we are told, very satisfactory. The new risks written in the twelve months amounted to \$1,930,000, and the income of the year in Canada exceeded a million dollars. A light death rate has been experienced, which is a favorable feature for participating policy-holders. The Toronto business is, we understand, considerably larger than in previous years. One is surprised on looking over the Blue Book, to find that the Canadian investments of the Standard exceed twelve millions of dollars; it deserves, therefore, the consideration in this country which it seems to receive.

Mrs. Potts, manager of the Woman's Department of the Mutual Life of New York, at its Boston office, recently gave a little talk to some fifteen ladies on the question of life insurance. This is the sort of thing which appears to be constantly going on across the Atlantic, where the ladies are steadily increasing their hold upon the insurance business. The company named is to be congratulated on having secured as superintendent of its Women's Department, at Toronto, a representative of decided ability in the person of Miss Katharine M. Lizars, whom many in Canada know and appreciate as one of the authors of that fascinating book "In the Days of the Canada Company."

A well-known Canadian life company forwards to us a letter, of which the following is a copy, showing how outraged the writer feels over the alarming increase the Mutual Reserve Fund Life has lately made in its rates:—

"Washington, D.C., Feb. 7, 1898.

"——— LIFE ——— Co.,

"Toronto, Canada.

"Will you send me the rate you will issue to me a life insurance policy for \$3,000. I have been carrying a life insurance of \$3,000 in the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Insurance Co. of N.Y., for nearly fifteen years. I began by paying \$7.47 every sixty days, with annual dues of \$6. When I received the policy I was assured that the premium would not exceed that amount, but a year or two ago it was increased to \$10.23, and I continued to pay without complaining until my last assessment came, February 1st, when I was amazed to find they had raised me to

\$18.09 [every half year]. I have come to the conclusion that the concern is too increasingly expensive and uncertain for me, and I want to get out of it. I have met and done business with your agent in Ontario, and I like the way your company does business.

"I am 58 years of age, am in perfect health, and have not (to my recollection) employed a doctor in twenty years; have been in the United States since 1890. Will be pleased to hear from you.

"Yours truly,

L. H.,

"Washington, D.C."

FIRES IN MONTREAL.

On Monday last the fire commissioners of Montreal made their report upon the fires of that city during 1897. These gentlemen, Messrs. Alfred Perry and J. Poirier, investigated no less than 556 fires during the twelve months, and took evidence on oath thereanent. Two persons were brought before the commissioners, accused of incendiarism, but the depositions made against them being insufficient they were discharged. The report of Messrs. Perry and Poirier gives in tabular form the class of property destroyed, or injured, the amount of insurance, and the losses incurred in each case. The total losses were \$579,257, and the amount of insurance \$1,292,552. A large proportion of the fires had been caused by the explosion of coal oil lamps, and coal oil stoves. There has been a steady increase from year to year in the number of investigations, the figures being 315 for 1895, 458 for 1896, and 556 in 1897. The losses for 1897 were much less than in the previous year. It is to be desired that every city and town should make like enquiry into the causes of fires in their midst.

CLEARING-HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of the Canadian clearing houses for the week ended with Thursday, February 10th, 1898, compared with those of the previous week:

CLEARINGS.	Feb. 10th, 1898.	Feb. 3rd., 1898.
Montreal	\$14,811,986	\$14,549,771
Toronto	8,066,341	8,307,722
Winnipeg	1,453,593	1,378,167
Halifax	1,288,741	1,143,587
Hamilton	783,920	649,347
St. John	621,980	432,997
	\$28,026,561	\$26,461,591

Aggregate balances this week, \$4,234,977; last week, \$3,938,705.

—The annual meeting of shareholders in the Guarantee Company of North America, was held in Montreal a week ago. The report submitted contains the following figures:—Amount of bonds in force \$43,196,496. Gross revenue, \$295,173.01. Assets, \$956,196.63. Surplus to shareholders, \$444,797.71. Total resources, \$1,320,196.63. The total amount paid and provided for indemnity to employers to date is \$1,442,259.69. A dividend of six per cent. was paid, together with a bonus of 2 per cent. out of the ascertained profits of the year. The directors are as under:—E. S. Clouston, John Cassils, Geo. Hague, Hartland S. MacDougall, H. W. Cannon, of New York, Edward Rawlings, E. C. Smith, of St. Albans, Vt., William Wainwright and Robert Kerr. The president is Mr. Rawlings, and the vice-president, Mr. MacDougall.

—By the courtesy of the secretary, we have received an advance copy of the report for 1897 of the Winnipeg Board of Trade. The council is pleased to report that the business men of the Province are recognizing the desirability of associating themselves for business purposes. Requests for the forms to be taken for organizing boards of trade have been received from Saltcoats, Selkirk, Grenfell, Emerson, Cypress River, Souris and Hartney.

—The Vancouver Board of Trade has established an agency in Seattle, Washington State, to afford information of Vancouver's advantages over the United States cities in supplying outfits for the Klondyke at lower prices and of a more suitable character. The result has displeased Seattle outfitters, as miners realize the saving they would effect by outfitting in Canada.

The annual meeting of the Keystone Fire Insurance Company has been held in the company's office, Princess street, St. John. The following named gentlemen were elected officers for the ensuing year: Hon. A. F. Randolph, president; Lt. Col. Markham, vice-president; Senator Cox and J. J. Kenny, of Toronto; R. W. W. Frink, A. P. Barnhill and F. G. Knowlton, directors.