

WAR MORTALITY OF BRITISH LIFE COMPANIES.

An interesting review of the mortality effects of the war, both direct and indirect, upon the British life companies appears in the London Financier. The effect of the statement is to emphasise the remarkably fine position retained by these companies in spite of all the claims made upon them. As was inevitable, remarks the Financier, death claims on account of policyholders serving with the colors tended to increase last year, though, happily, the advance was offset to some extent by diminished mortality among the civilian population. In the early days of the war the strain and anxiety told severely on old lives, but experience would appear to suggest that people are becoming acclimatized to war conditions, and are no longer a prey to the physical infirmities brought about by the mental uneasiness and stress which the fate of their relatives at the front provokes. Besides, some allowance must be made for the more hopeful military outlook. Whatever the cause, the general experience of the principal life offices in respect of the suitability of their non-military policyholders has been distinctly satisfactory, and the fact that they have not been called upon to meet immature claims has been of distinct assistance in enabling them to discharge abnormal or unforeseen liabilities. On the other hand, claims in respect of military lives have progressed rapidly. In 1914 they were only £1,270,800. In 1915 they rose to £3,042,500. Last year, according to a reliable estimate, they exceeded £5,000,000. The grand total of such claims up to the end of last year, therefore, surpasses £9,000,000. The ratio of the war claims to the aggregate mortality claims of all classes was about 15 per cent. last year, compared with 11 per cent. in 1915 and 10 per cent. in 1914.

A REMARKABLE RECORD.

But for these abnormal liabilities arising from the war, it is pointed out, the mortality experience would have declined by upwards of 4 per cent. last year. In the case of the industrial offices the claims met to date exceed £2,750,000, and are equal to about £18 per policy. Naturally, the claims presented to the ordinary offices have been much higher, both in the aggregate and on the average, the average in some instances being close upon £2,000. Fortunately, such liberal provision had been made for death liabilities that, even with war mortality added, the expected amount of claims has been exceeded in only a very few instances. That is a remarkable record, in view of the fact that the war claims have been among young and vigorous lives, where the reserves held against the ultimate payment of the sums assured were relatively small. It clearly demonstrates the strength and safety of British assurance companies, and it proves conclusively the sound lines upon which their business has been managed and their financing conducted in the past.

The general agent or any person in a position of authority over others who has the thoughtfulness and consideration to recognize and commend honesty of effort is more likely to build up to success those of his staff rather than he who possesses a critical spirit which only sees and condemns the lack of achievement.—*Rough Notes.*

NEW MAP PLAN.

At the recent meeting of the Western Canada Fire Underwriters' Association held in Chicago the plan, or map, committee was authorized to extend its jurisdiction to all towns. Heretofore the committee published maps for the smaller towns only. The method of levying assessments for the expense of the work has also been changed, and hereafter each company will pay for a map for each agent it may have at any point, and the home office of the company will be given a copy free. It is believed that under this system the distribution of the expense will be more equitable, as two or more companies under one management will be assessed on the basis of agency representation.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, at its annual convention at Winnipeg last week, passed resolutions favoring action on the part of all provincial governments against fire waste.

New York State has an average of nearly 1,000 accidents a day, excluding those which cause no loss of time other than the day or shift in which accidents happen and which require no other medical attention than first aid.

WANTED

By a British Insurance Office, CLERK for Mapping and Clerical Work. Must be ineligible for service overseas. Applications will be treated in confidence. Apply to

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MONTREAL.

WANTED

Experienced MANAGER for Western Fire Insurance Agency. Must be capable of holding and extending an established business. Married man preferred. In first letter give experience, references, when available and salary desired. Correspondence confidential. Apply in first instance to

"WESTERN,"
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MONTREAL.

THE MONTREAL CITY and DISTRICT SAVINGS BANK

NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend of Two Dollars per share on the Capital Stock of this institution has been declared and will be payable at its Head Office, in this City, on and after Monday, the 2nd of July next, to Shareholders of record at the close of business on the 15th of June next, at 3 o'clock p.m.

By order of the Board,

A. P. LESPERANCE, Manager.

Montreal, 28th May, 1917.