

(Copy of Memorandum filed at Albany, December 9, 1911, by Hon. Wm. H. Hotchkiss, Superintendent of Insurance.)

## State of New York - Insurance Department

IN THE MATTER OF THE EXAMINATION  
OF THE  
NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

### MEMORANDUM OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

It is thought proper to file with the report on the examination of the New York Life Insurance Company, dated November 21, 1911, the following memorandum:

The examination of this Company now completed, is the second since the enactment of the amendatory laws of 1906. It is even more complete and painstaking than was the examination of three years ago.

**The New York Life is one of the great life insurance companies under the supervision of this department.** As of December 31, 1910, such Company had assets approximating closely to \$650,000,000, outstanding insurance exceeding \$2,000,000,000, and an annual premium income of about \$80,000,000. It disbursed to policyholders in 1910 over \$53,000,000. As of December 31 last, such Company held in reserve for its policyholders—including deferred dividends—upwards of \$600,000,000, and in contingency and special funds for the protection of policyholders, nearly \$18,000,000. **It does business generally in the United States and in 39 principal nations of the world.** It has approximately 996,000 policyholders.

The mere recital of these figures indicates the magnitude of the task committed to the examiners, and gives emphasis to the fact that after an examination covering seven months, such examiners concluded:

***"The final results of this examination show that the work of the Company is done efficiently and economically; its claims are paid promptly; its policyholders are treated fairly; its dividends are apportioned and paid without discrimination; and the Company complies with the requirements of the law and the rulings of the supervising authorities in both the spirit and the letter."***

The above statement should not be taken, however, as indicating that this Company and its work were in no respect found the subject of criticism. The fact worthy of note is that the criticisms made by the examiners have to do with minor details and do not concern the management, the observance by such management of the law, the Company's treatment of policyholders, or matters of Company policy generally. **Indeed, the criticisms set forth in the report are so relatively unimportant as to be in effect negligible.**

The impression made by the examiners' report was considerably strengthened by a personal inspection of the Home Office of this Company made by me shortly after such report was completed. Evidences of economy, both in the number of employees and in the space occupied, as well as in the use of labor-saving devices of various kinds, were noticed. The efficient organism of this great institution, centering as it does in its so-called "office committee," was everywhere evident. **An almost over-scrupulous desire to comply with every statutory requirement or departmental regulation was also noted.** Indeed, for general Home Office efficiency, for watchfulness over the little things that go to increase a company's expense ratio, for accuracy of record and in accounting methods, and for a full observance of the law, **this Company is entitled, not merely to the commendation given it by the examiners, but to the official approval of this department here recorded.**

**WILLIAM H. HOTCHKISS,**

*Superintendent of Insurance.*

Dated, Albany, December 9th, 1911.