

FIRE PREMIUMS AND TAXATION IN MONTREAL, 1914.

We publish herewith our annual table showing (1) the amount of fire insurance premiums upon risks in the city received by the fire companies doing business in Montreal in 1914, and (2) the details of the taxation levied upon the fire companies by the city. As regards the premiums received by the companies during 1914, it will be seen that these are returned at \$3,101,784, against \$2,934,551 in 1913 and \$2,645,684 in 1912. The increase over 1913, about \$170,000, compares unfavorably with that of 1913 over 1912, which was nearly \$300,000. The latter advance was the climax of a series of increases, each larger than the one preceding, extending over several years. A falling-off was naturally to be anticipated, owing to the decrease in building operations last year and the tendency, especially towards the close of the year, to carry only light stocks of merchandise. It must be remembered also that new structures embodying the results of modern fire prevention research enjoy the advantage of reduced rates of premium. Sound and up to date practise in this direction is given full credit by underwriters; the tendency of the average of fire premiums has been distinctly downward in recent years.

BASIS OF THE TAXATION.

The basis of the tax upon premiums (fixed by the Legislature in 1911), is a one per cent. straight tax on the premiums, with a minimum tax of \$200. Formerly, there was a maximum of \$1,000 but this maximum has now been abolished—an alteration in tax methods which makes a difference to a number of the companies of several hundreds of dollars a year. This tax reached \$33,865 for 1914 as against \$32,557 for 1913, so that, with the tax towards the up-keep of the Fire Commissioners' office, altogether the companies will pay in special taxation to the City of Montreal for their last year's business here \$39,465 against \$38,157 for the business of 1913. For the tax upon their premiums, the companies get absolutely nothing in return and are never likely to. They are merely the victims of an unfair impost, the best excuse for which is that it is easily collectable. Unlicensed companies competing with the companies who pay these taxes and a pile of others, of course get off scot-free.

The companies doing a business in Montreal last year involving premiums of \$100,000 and upwards were in the order given: Royal, North British and Mercantile, Guardian, Liverpool & London & Globe, Phoenix of London, Commercial Union, Mount Royal and Western.

COMPANY	Premium Declaration 1914	1% Tax	Fire Com. & Expenses	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Aetna	6,229.39	200.00	11.24	211.24
Aetna	66,544.18	665.44	120.13	785.57
Alliance	65,379.48	653.79	118.63	772.42
Atlas	60,484.14	604.84	109.19	714.03
British America	23,167.00	231.67	41.82	273.49
British Colonial	11,770.38	200.00	21.25	221.25
British Dominions	30,554.62	305.54	55.16	360.70
Caledonian	51,019.02	510.19	92.10	602.29
Commercial Union	115,087.12	1,150.87	207.80	1,358.67
Connecticut	11,627.01	200.00	20.99	220.99
Continental	43,009.21	430.09	77.64	507.73
Employers' Liability	42,056.22	420.56	75.92	496.48
Equitable Fire & Mar.	3,421.16	200.00	6.17	206.17
Fidelity Phoenix	27,206.59	272.06	49.11	321.17
Fireman's Fund	12,967.84	200.00	23.41	223.41
General of Perth	21,559.51	215.59	38.92	254.51
General of Paris	15,610.55	200.00	28.18	228.18
Guardian	191,440.16	1,914.40	345.65	2,260.05
German-American	57,702.48	577.02	104.17	681.19
Glens Falls	21,082.61	210.82	38.06	248.88
Globe & Rutgers	19,178.48	200.00	34.62	234.62
Hartford	45,340.00	453.40	81.85	535.25
Home	37,885.51	378.85	68.39	447.24
Imp'l Underwriters	18,026.03	200.00	32.54	232.54
Insurance Co. of N.A.	92,325.36	923.25	166.70	1,089.95
Law Union & Rock	51,944.66	519.44	93.78	613.22
London & Lancashire	91,216.00	912.16	164.68	1,076.84
London Assurance	32,508.33	325.08	58.69	383.77
L'pool & Lon. & Globe	163,313.99	1,633.13	294.90	1,928.03
Liverpool-Manitoba	17,658.70	200.00	31.88	231.88
N.Y. Underw's Agency	33,962.51	339.62	61.31	400.93
N. British & Merc.	198,735.16	1,987.35	358.85	2,346.20
Northern	98,239.74	982.39	177.36	1,159.75
Norwich Union	52,861.81	528.61	95.43	624.04
North West	12,191.00	200.00	22.00	222.00
Niagara	20,311.40	203.11	36.67	239.78
National Union	18,451.66	200.00	33.31	233.31
Phoenix of Hartford	30,259.56	302.59	54.63	357.22
Palatine	18,532.03	200.00	33.46	233.46
Pacific Coast	7,517.76	200.00	13.57	213.57
Phoenix of London	140,598.66	1,405.98	253.90	1,659.88
Providence-Washn.	25,402.37	254.02	45.86	299.88
Quebec	5,590.00	200.00	10.09	210.09
Queen	76,292.89	762.92	137.68	900.60
Royal	223,125.47	2,231.25	402.86	2,634.11
Royal Exchange	63,873.47	638.73	115.31	754.04
St. Paul Fire & Marine	14,499.67	200.00	26.18	226.18
Scottish Union & Nat.	50,911.72	509.11	91.91	601.02
Springfld. Fire & Mar.	33,068.63	330.68	59.70	390.38
Sun	31,408.25	314.08	56.70	370.78
Union of Paris	28,631.90	286.31	51.69	338.00
Union of London	56,955.44	569.55	102.82	672.37
Western	100,056.03	1,000.56	180.68	1,181.24
Westchester	9,430.89	200.00	17.02	217.02
Yorkshire	39,539.37	395.39	71.37	466.76
Mount Royal	106,461.44	1,064.61	192.20	1,256.81
Dominion	16,312.17	200.00	29.45	229.45
London Mutual	15,785.08	200.00	28.50	228.50
Provincial	14,450.00	200.00	26.08	226.08
Anglo-American	5,555.73	200.00	10.03	210.03
Montreal-Canada	25,046.42	250.46	45.21	295.67
Factories	4,598.12	200.00	8.30	208.30
American Lloyds	5,604.23	200.00	10.12	210.12
Stratheona	18,056.47	200.00	32.60	232.60
La Protection	2,558.43	200.00	4.62	204.62
Provincial of Engl'd.	7,769.98	200.00	14.02	214.02
Stanst'd & Sherb'ke	6,250.50	200.00	11.28	211.28
Missisquoi & R'ville	4,397.27	200.00	7.94	207.94
National of Hart'd.	9,563.45	200.00	17.26	217.26
National of Paris	16,475.57	200.00	29.74	229.74
Nat'l-Ben'F'nklin	2,583.29	200.00	4.66	204.66
N. West'n & Nat.	2,583.29	200.00	4.66	204.66
Total	3,101,784.56	33,865.21	5,600.00	39,465.21