

THE LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE.

No better evidence of the resiliency and effectiveness of British life insurance organisations could be desired than that provided in their reports for the year 1916, which are now coming to hand. Almost uniformly, these reports show a considerable improvement in the volume of new business transacted in comparison with 1915. The significance of this fact can only be appreciated when it is borne in mind that not only was the companies' usual field of operations further restricted last year through the calling to the Colours of many who under normal conditions, would be highly desirable prospects, but that the companies' organisation was similarly affected. That under such circumstances, improved results are now being shown augurs exceedingly well for the future of these companies, and is a very great credit to those who, occupying positions of executive responsibility, are engaged in the onerous task of piloting the companies through the present difficult period.

A case in point is the London and Lancashire Life and General Assurance Association Limited, which in recent years, has added to its activities fire and other forms of insurance, but is naturally still mainly concerned with life insurance. The report for 1916 indicates a favorable experience and an improvement upon 1915 that is distinctly creditable. New policies issued totalled \$3,156,005, a gain of \$225,000 upon 1915, when new policies issued were \$2,928,060. A new premium income of \$129,350 was produced by the new business, the total net life premium income being \$1,919,910. Interest and dividend receipts raised the total income of the life department to \$2,682,720. Coincidentally, death claims with bonus additions show a decrease in comparison with 1915, their requirement of \$1,160,900 comparing with \$1,182,937 in the preceding year. War claims, which called for payments of \$98,330 were actually \$90,000 less than in 1915. Additionally to death claims, endowment policies with bonus additions matured to an amount of \$738,579. After payment of all outgoings, the life and annuity fund showed an increase of \$208,350, thus raising it to an aggregate of \$19,955,544. Total assets are increased to \$22,479,865, a large proportion of these assets being invested in Canada. Including subscriptions made since the close of the financial year, the Company's holdings of British and Allied War Securities, including Canadian, aggregate \$6,225,000.

THE COMPANY IN CANADA.

The 1916 improvement in the new business of the London and Lancashire Life extended to the Canadian branch, which occupies an important position relatively to the Company's whole business. Policies new and taken up in Canada last year were \$1,181,651, a growth of \$106,000 over 1915, and the amount of Canadian business in force was raised at December 31st to \$14,597,486. The London and Lancashire Life has been transacting business in Canada for many years, and occupies a respected position in this field. Under the present management of Mr. Alex. Bissett, who has been associated with the Company's Canadian affairs for a period of over thirty years, a widely-spread and matured organisation is maintained throughout the Dominion. Not only does the business transacted in Canada stand in important

proportion to the whole of the Company's transactions, as noted above, but the London and Lancashire Life has very large investment interests in the Dominion, its total assets in Canada at the end of 1916 exceeding \$6,400,000. The Company has the advantage of a most influential Board of Directors in Canada, composed of Messrs. Andrew J. Dawes, President National Breweries and Director Merchants Bank; E. F. Hebden, Managing Director, Merchants Bank; H. B. Mackenzie, General Manager, Bank of British North America, and E. C. Pratt, General Manager, Molsons Bank.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD.

FIRE AT PEMBROKE, ONT.

By the fire which occurred on May 28th on the premises of the Colonial Lumber Company at Pembroke, Ontario, the following companies are interested:—Caledonian, \$5,000; Palatine, \$5,000; Royal, \$3,500; Pennsylvania, \$3,500; American Mutuals, \$27,500; Hamilton, \$14,000; total, \$58,500. Total loss.

NEWMARKET, ONT.—W. Fraser's home, on Eagle Street, destroyed, May 23. Loss, \$1,000; no insurance. Two lives lost. Origin, coal oil stove set fire to woodwork.

MONTREAL.—Basement of Wilder's, Ltd., St. Catherine Street, slightly damaged, May 24.

Premises of N. Sicard, 1237 Berri Street, damaged, May 21st. Origin, sun exploded fireworks in window.

SECHTEL, B.C.—Indian school and convent destroyed, May 29.

PERSONALS.

Mr. Randall Davidson, Canadian manager North British & Mercantile, has left on a business trip to the Coast.

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Mr. George E. Moberly, manager, Northern Assurance Company, spent a few days in Toronto this week in connection with the business of his Company.

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Mr. J. H. Labelle, assistant manager for Canada, Royal Insurance Company, is at present in the West en route to the Coast, visiting agencies of the Company.

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Mr. Arthur Barry, Manager for Canada, Royal Exchange Assurance, has returned from the West where he spent three weeks visiting important Agencies of his Company. He informs us that all legitimate commercial business is good in the West, and Vancouver is looking forward to great developments in connection with shipbuilding, in the near future.

The National Life Underwriters' Association in the United States is working up an effort whereby life insurance agents will devote their entire time on June 5th and 6th to selling "Liberty Loan" bonds by personal solicitation and canvass.

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Mr. R. M. Bissell, president of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, suggests that in addition to rates charged for insuring property, a specific charge be made for tax imposts, distributed in the several States according to the rate of taxation.