FIRE COMPANIES' EXPENSES.

The 1916 expense ratio of the Dominion-licensed fire companies shows on the whole a fairly substantial increase over that of the preceding year. The comparative figures are as follows:—

	% Expenses to Net Premiums. 1916	1915
Canadian companies	36.45	36.98
British companies	33.50	33.09
American and French companies	35.00	31.05

The expense ratio of the Canadian companies has been slightly reduced in comparison with 1915, but some of the small, independent Canadian companies are still very obviously "paying too much for their whistle." That kind of thing cannot go on indefinitely. In the case of the British companies, additional taxation and special expenditures which are indirect results of the war, probably go a long way towards accounting for the rise of 0.41 per cent. The substantial increase of practically four points in the case of the American and French companies is probably a consequence of the putting into force of the Insurance Department's requirements for the maintenance of an adequate head office organisation in the Dominion, on the part of a number of the American companies. Some of these had hitherto been doing a very nice business in Canada through a skeleton administration, which cost comparatively little, and as is evident, the Insurance Department's requirements resulted in quite a considerable additional expenditure in Canada on their part.

Strictly speaking, the figures given do not accurately represent the entire expenditure on Canadian business of the British and American companies. Something should be allowed for cost of head office administration of the Canadian business of these companies. Assuming this head office cost is 2.50 per cent., the 1916 expense ratio of the British companies would be 36.00 per cent. and of the American companies 37.50 per cent., the average for all companies being raised to 36.65 per cent. against 35.37 per cent. in the preceding year.

With an average ratio of net losses incurred to net premiums received of 58.52, it is evident that 1916 was not a very profitable year for the companies.

DECREASE IN FIRE COMPANIES' AVERAGE PREMIUM.

The average rate of premium charged for risks taken by the Dominion-licensed fire companies in Canada showed again last year a marked decrease. Comparative figures are as follows:—

	1916	1915
Canadian companies	1.18	1.25
British companies	1.08	1.17
American and French companies	1.04	1.08
	1.09	1.16

This average rate has been steadily decreasing for a number of years. In 1910, it was 1.36 per cent. and ten years ago, in 1906, 1.53 per cent. This notable reduction indicates the readiness of underwriters to meet at once improvements in construction and protection by a reduction of premium rate.

The Bank of Toronto has opened a Branch at Stanmore, Alta., under the management of Mr. James Milmine, formerly on the staff of Youngstown, Alta., Branch.

CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

Specially compiled by The Chronicle.

FIRE AT CREIGHTON MINE, ONT.

On the 25th instant, a fire occurred in the Justiana Block of the Creighton Mine. Insurance as follows:—ON BUILDING: New York Underwriters, $1,000; Union of Paris, $1,000; Century, $2,500; Liverpool & London & Globe, $2,000; Mount Royal, $2,000; Commercial Union, $2,000; Northern, $1,500; total, $12,000. Loss extensive

FIRE AT SIMCOE, ONT.

A fire broke out in the east block of the can-making department of the Dominion Canners plant at Simcoe, Ont., on the 18th instant, causing an insurance loss of about $250,000. Some seventy-five or eighty companies are on the schedule.

MONTREAL.—R. Gardner & Son's machinery manufacturing plant at 40 Nazareth Street, No. 52 occupied by various tenants, and No. 54, storehouse of Montreal Cotton & Wool Waste Co., damaged, April 20.

Barn of M. J. Malone, 136 des Ormeaux Street, destroyed with three horses, etc., April 23. Origin unknown.

BELLEVILLE, ONT.—Massey Hall, at Albert College, destroyed, April 21. Building insured for $16,000; small insurance on organ, contents and equipment.

LONDON, ONT.—Sir George Gibbons' stables burned, April 18. Loss $8,000. Origin, defective wiring in battery charging apparatus.

INGERSOLL, ONT.—Barn of W. Garner, jr., destroyed with contents including automobile, April 13. Loss $1,000, partly covered by insurance.

PORT HOPE, ONT.—T. R. Dale's home destroyed with contents, April 13. Origin, overheated chimney.

E. Langstaff's barn and thrashing outfit in Township of Hope destroyed, April 13.

TORONTO.—Hotel on Ward's Island damaged, April 15. Loss about $1,000. Origin, unknown.

PERSONALS.

Mr. T. D. Richardson, the popular superintendent for Canada of the New York Underwriters Agency, spent a few days in Montreal this week.

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Mr. D. Stewart, New Liskeard, Ont., spent a few days in the city this week. Mr. Stewart represents several important fire companies and transacts a large business.

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Mr. E. B. Greenshields, whose death took place in Montreal this week, had many prominent financial connections, his directorships including the Bank of Montreal, the Royal Trust Company, the Standard Life Assurance Company and the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation.

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The Atlas Assurance Company announces that Mr. Herbert Brooks has relinquished his position as chairman, but will still retain a seat on the board. Mr. Francis Alexander Johnston, who has been deputy chairman for the last 14 years, has been elected chairman, and Mr. Henry John Gardiner, a director for the past 20 years, has been elected deputy chairman.