

The record of the company in its benefits to policyholders during the seventy years of its life is summed up in the following figures:—

Paid to policyholders	\$1,066,486,154.94
Accumulated for policyholders	596,872,780.20
Total benefits to policyholders	\$1,663,358,935.14
Received from policyholders	1,471,459,911.20
Excess of benefits to policyholders	\$ 191,899,023.94

It is a wonderful record of seventy years' work, and not less so in the light of the position of the Company as at December 31 last. Insurance in force was then \$1,550,888,063, admitted assets, \$599,125,046, policy reserves \$482,570,537, total income 1912, \$86,440,514, disbursements 1912, \$71,672,099. These figures show more clearly than many words the great position of the business. New business paid for during 1912, including restorations, etc., amounted to \$157,067,823, an increase over the previous year of more than \$16,000,000; the total insurance in force, \$1,550,888,063, shows an advance of \$45,913,401 over 1911 while the admitted assets at \$599,125,046 are practically \$12,000,000 higher than a year ago.

Of the Company's admitted assets more than 50 p.c. are in bonds and only just above 23 per cent. in mortgages, while the holdings of real estate are actually under 4 per cent. of admitted assets. The skilful way in which the assets are managed may be seen from the fact that during the year, on sales or maturity of ledger assets, the Company realised a net profit over book values of over \$2,000,000. The whole statement is an excellent example of the accomplishments of modern life insurance on the grand scale.

BRITISH COLONIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

A newcomer in the Canadian fire field is the British Colonial Fire Insurance Company, of Montreal, a report of whose first annual meeting and balance sheet as at December 31, 1912, appears on another page. It holds a Dominion license, and is now fully organised in all the provinces with the exception of Nova Scotia, where organisation is shortly to be undertaken. But since this process of organisation has naturally taken some time the major part of its business during 1912 was obtained in the province of Quebec. The details given at the annual meeting show that this business has been carefully selected and the management very rightly appear to be concerned primarily with the quality of the risks taken rather than with their quantity. The British Colonial has the advantage of being a tariff company, and with an adherence to sound methods of underwriting and a conservative policy generally, there appears to be good promise that the Company will, with time, develop into a successful institution. Its general manager is Mr. Theodore Meunier. Total assets for the security of policyholders at December 31, amounted to \$507,359. The further career of this Company, which has begun in promising fashion, will be watched with interest.

The British Columbia Loggers' Association have decided to co-operate in every possible way with the provincial government in their efforts towards fire protection.

FIRE PREVENTION NOTES.

A movement is on foot in Montreal looking to the co-operation of a number of leading organisations in the campaign for the reduction of the fire waste. Those who are being asked to appoint delegates with a view to conference on the subject are:—the Board of Trade, La Chambre de Commerce, the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, the Builders' Exchange, the Architects' Association of Quebec, the Montreal branch of the Retail Merchants' Association of Canada, and the Montreal branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

INSPECTION WANTED AT WINNIPEG.

Fire Commissioner Lindback, of Winnipeg, has issued the following circular:

"In the Dominion of Canada during January, we destroyed by fire nearly \$4,000,000 or \$126,225 per day. In the province of Manitoba we burned property to the value of \$100,000 or over \$3,000 per day, to which the City of Winnipeg contributed at the rate of \$220 per day. I am publishing these figures trusting they alone will make those who read them sit up and take notice, and realize the necessity of constant care and watchfulness by each individual; the only way we can prevent so many of these unnecessary fire losses.

"In the fall a bulletin is usually published from this office cautioning the public to inspect their heating apparatus, chimneys and flues, before cold weather sets in; however, it is necessary to keep such inspections up during the entire season, and exercise particular care whenever the thermometer takes an extra drop, owing to the particular strain put on material by the expansion and contraction caused by all sudden changes of temperature. If people would individually realize how much damage thoughtlessness and indifference may accomplish, and individually exercise common sense and care, we would quickly reduce our fire waste.....

"No doubt many factors count in the problem of high cost of living, of which the destruction of \$100,000 by fire in one month must be counted a rather potential one.

"There are hundreds of households and business places in this city, right now, needing careful inspection and cleaning up to avoid accidents, which may not only involve their own property, but that of their neighbors and surrounding district.

THE JANUARY BANK STATEMENT.

The January bank statement, issued yesterday, shows the usual sharp contraction from the December figures. However, the notice deposits are about \$2,600,000 higher than in December, and Canadian call loans about \$700,000 higher. Our usual analysis of the statement will appear next week.

	Jan. 31, 1913.	Dec. 31, 1912.
Paid-up capital	\$115,327,032	\$ 114,881,914
Circulation	94,575,644	110,948,357
Demand deposits	354,518,964	379,777,219
Notice deposits	635,000,056	632,641,340
Foreign deposits	83,284,404	87,050,132
Call loans in Canada	71,376,510	70,655,661
Foreign call loans	92,387,847	105,952,101
Current loans in Canada	874,705,616	881,331,981
Foreign current loans	40,098,146	40,990,126
Total Assets	1,485,457,458	1,526,081,158