

FIRE PREMIUMS AND TAXATION IN MONTREAL, 1912

We publish this week 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 and (2) the details of the taxation levied upon the fire companies by the city. As regards the premiums received by the companies during 1912, it will be seen that these are returned at \$2,645,684, against \$2,389,050 in 1911 and \$2,237,445 in 1910. The increase over 1911, above \$250,000, is a somewhat larger increase than has been seen for some years, and reflects the immense advance in property values in Montreal from year to year caused by the constant growth of the city and the erection of buildings, which in many cases individually cost a very considerable amount of money.

COMPETITION OF UNDERGROUND INSURANCE.

At the same time, it must be remembered that the present list contains eight companies more than did last year's list—67 as against 59—and taking all the known circumstances into consideration, it still appears that the companies who do their business in an above-board way have cause for serious complaint at the activity of insurance organisations carrying on an underground business. Beneficent legislation, passed at the instigation of the manufacturing interests, lets these organisations in by the back door, and they are able to transact their business without the payment of a cent in taxation, while, as will be seen from the figures in the adjoining column, those companies having the grace to do their business in a straightforward, above-board fashion are mulcted in a considerable amount of municipal taxation, to say nothing of the provincial and Dominion imposts placed upon them. With the manufacturers apparently, circumstances alter cases and logic can go hang. Enjoying the benefits of a tariff for their own businesses, they deny to the insurance companies any protection against utterly unfair competition, although every argument which the manufacturer uses in support of protection for himself can be equally well used by the insurance companies.

FIRE COMMISSIONERS' EXPENSES.

The expenses of the fire commissioners' this year are put down at \$8,400, the same figure as last year, so that the companies pay for this purpose \$5,600 as in 1911. The basis of the tax upon premiums was altered by the Legislature in 1911 and it is now a one per cent. straight tax on the premiums, with a minimum tax, as before, of \$200. Formerly, there was a maximum of \$1,000 but this maximum has now been abolished—an alteration in tax methods, which, as will be seen, makes a difference to a number of the companies of several hundreds of dollars a year. The only excuse even suggested for this tax is the simple greediness of the city. The tax is merely a bare-faced imposition upon the companies who do not get a cent in return for it, and are never likely to. This tax reached \$29,463 for 1912 as against \$26,576 for 1911, so that altogether the companies will pay in special taxation to the City of Montreal for their last year's business here \$35,063 against \$32,176 for the business of 1911.

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 and Commercial Union.

NAME of COMPANY	Premiums 1912	1 p.c. Tax	% of Fire Commis. Expenses	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Aetna	38,679.01	386.79	81.87	468.66
Acadia	6,093.36	200.00	12.92	212.92
Alliance	60,079.30	600.79	127.15	727.94
Atlas	57,650.23	576.50	122.02	698.52
British America	20,845.34	208.45	44.14	252.59
British Colonial	3,108.24	200.00	6.60	206.60
B. Dominions	6,642.53	200.00	14.08	214.08
Caledonian	47,403.76	474.03	100.31	574.34
Continental	39,304.90	393.04	83.19	476.23
Com. Union	113,652.80	1,136.52	240.51	1,377.03
Connecticut	14,616.93	200.00	30.95	230.95
Employer's Liability	22,888.68	228.88	48.46	277.34
Fidelity-Phenix	45,697.31	456.97	96.72	553.69
General of Paris	2,954.06	200.00	6.30	206.30
General of Perth	9,342.29	200.00	19.80	219.80
German-American	57,039.13	570.39	120.72	691.11
Guardian	156,767.88	1,567.67	331.75	1,899.42
Hartford	36,343.29	363.43	76.93	440.36
Home	30,633.25	306.33	64.85	371.18
Law Union & Rock Llv. & Lon. &	19,171.79	200.00	40.58	240.58
Globe	140,508.40	1,405.08	297.33	1,702.41
Liv-Manitoba	19,014.65	200.00	40.25	240.25
Lon. & Lancashire	68,555.00	685.55	145.07	830.62
Lon. Assurance	24,484.57	244.84	51.82	296.66
National-Union	11,159.68	200.00	23.63	223.63
N. Y. Undrs	27,207.15	272.07	57.59	329.66
North America	73,557.63	735.57	155.65	891.22
N. B. & Mer.	177,220.32	1,772.20	375.01	2,147.21
Northern	93,604.43	936.04	198.08	1,134.12
North West	5,223.83	200.00	11.08	211.08
Norwich Union	53,323.11	533.23	112.84	646.07
Pacific Coast	10,935.12	200.00	23.15	223.15
Palatine	5,208.20	200.00	11.04	211.04
Phoenix of Hart	40,046.07	400.46	84.77	485.23
Phoenix of London	118,000.64	1,180.00	249.71	1,437.71
Prov-Washington	22,371.28	223.71	47.36	271.07
Quebec	7,804.00	200.00	16.54	216.54
Royal Exchange	49,156.13	491.56	104.06	595.62
Quecn	67,141.42	671.41	142.10	813.51
Royal	197,195.52	1,971.95	417.30	2,389.25
St. Paul	8,483.25	200.00	17.97	217.97
Scottish Union & National	45,418.58	454.18	96.16	550.34
Sovereign	9,004.12	200.00	19.06	219.06
Springfield	27,210.56	272.10	57.62	329.72
Sun	28,940.57	289.40	61.25	350.65
Union of London	55,077.28	550.77	116.58	667.35
Union of Paris	25,198.98	251.98	53.37	305.35
Westchester	3,744.87	200.00	7.97	207.97
Western	91,398.49	913.98	193.43	1,107.41
Yorkshire	49,851.84	498.51	105.52	604.03
Mount Royal	92,410.05	924.10	195.55	1,119.65
Dominion Fire	24,630.40	246.30	52.16	298.46
London Mutual	22,071.59	220.71	46.71	267.42
Ontario	8,964.04	200.00	18.99	218.99
Provincial	12,500.00	200.00	26.48	226.48
Rimouski	23,989.58	239.89	50.79	290.68
Equity	11,475.57	200.00	24.32	224.32
Anglo-American	16,082.72	200.00	34.07	234.07
Montreal-Canada	18,684.01	200.00	39.56	239.56
Factories	18,085.14	200.00	38.30	238.30
Amer. Lloyds	17,242.32	200.00	36.49	236.49
Stratheona	14,271.00	200.00	30.25	230.25
Hudson Bay	5,111.04	200.00	10.82	210.82
La Protection	2,465.99	200.00	5.27	205.27
Provincial of Eng.	8,644.59	200.00	18.31	218.31
Stanstead-Sherbrooke	2,090.07	200.00	4.47	204.47
Missisquoi-Rouville	2,006.63	200.00	4.30	204.30
Total	2,645,684.51	29,463.38	5,600.00	35,063.38