

panies' point of view, 1910 is best described as a fair year, not so good as 1909.

In the case of the life companies, the tale of 1910 is a much more cheerful one. Generally speaking, the year is reported to have been thoroughly successful and to have marked considerable growth and expansion. As contributing to this result, several reasons are adduced. The general prosperity throughout the country was, of course, of considerable help to the companies, who also derived benefit from the expansion and improvements in their organization. A third interesting reason which we are informed had a considerable effect upon the progress of the companies, is that there was not in 1910, excessive speculation in lots in the West. Speculation of this kind is detrimental to the companies, since it attracts the money of small investors, who might otherwise be favorably disposed towards life insurance. In 1910, the movement did not attain excessive proportions, and the year was a prosperous one for the life companies.

We have decided not to publish this year THE CHRONICLE'S usual preliminary tables with regard to fire and life business of the year which has recently concluded. These tables gave a very fair indication of the year's business many weeks in advance of the government report and we regret that we are compelled to discontinue them. The fire table is discontinued as some companies decline to give their figures and we consider it unfair to publish, under these circumstances, the figures of other companies. For the life table it was found difficult to obtain correct data, and it has been found that unfair comparisons were made by agents from these figures, which differed somewhat from those in the Government report. Subscribers who have been good enough to express to us their appreciation of these tables will understand that their compilation has only been given up after mature consideration of the circumstances. We shall endeavour to obtain from Ottawa the preliminary statement at the earliest possible date.

AETNA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

With 1910, the assets of the Aetna Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, Conn., reach over \$100,000,000 and the surplus to policyholders over \$10,000,000. During the year, this company continued its steady growth, and is able to state that life insurance in force is over \$300,000,000 while more than \$200,000,000 has been paid to policyholders since its organization in 1850.

The income of the year reached \$21,506,586, of which \$16,695,501 was from premiums. The income compares with \$20,587,255 in 1909, a total which was itself a notable gain over 1908. Total assets

at the close of 1910 were \$101,018,142, a gain of practically four millions over the 1909 total of \$97,227,607. Of these assets, stocks and bonds account for \$31,974,664, a gain of practically \$1,500,000 during 1910; mortgages, \$49,061,500, an advance of \$1,700,000; and loans on policies, \$8,325,149, an increase of \$500,000. On the other side there is a reserve on life, endowment and term policies of \$82,704,149, a surplus reserved for special classes of policies and dividends to policyholders payable on demand of \$1,858,901; a special reserve of \$704,525; while after making other allocations there is a surplus to policyholders of \$10,102,000. The surplus to policyholders at the close of 1909 was \$9,672,458, so that, in this respect, as in others, there has been with the Aetna Life, substantial advance during 1910.

The Aetna Life is well and favorably known throughout Canada, which field it entered in 1866. The Eastern Canada branch is under the efficient management of the well-known firm of Messrs. T. H. Christmas & Sons, at 160 St. James Street, Montreal. Messrs. Christmas report that among the fifty leading agents of the Company during 1910—agents who led in the matter of new business paid for—are to be found the names of three representatives of this agency, while of the sixty general agencies of the Company, the Eastern Canada branch ranks fifth for the year in regard to new business, written and paid for. Efficient representation of this kind should ensure for the Aetna Life continued progress in the Canadian field.

Notes on Business.

Increased Fire Rates at Winnipeg.

Following upon the recent sequence of heavy losses, lately incurred in Winnipeg, the Western Canada Fire Underwriters Association have resolved upon an increase in rates, which goes into effect at once with the board companies. Particulars of the increase are given in the following statement issued by Mr. F. J. L. Harrison, secretary of the Association:—

In consideration of the very heavy losses in the city of Winnipeg for the past two years, rates on the contents of mercantile buildings throughout the city will be increased as follows: The key rate on contents of all buildings, except fireproof, sprinklered risks and risks eligible for triennial insurance, is increased from 65 to 75 cents, putting the city in this respect on the same basis as the city of Toronto, where conditions with regard to the high pressure system and fire department equipment, are much the same as in Winnipeg. Extra charges have been imposed for height, area and vertical openings, such as stairways and elevator shafts, and on all buildings of three stories in height, and over. These extra charges apply only to contents, also charges for party walls, in any way defective, will be strictly enforced. It is understood there is no increase whatever made in rates on buildings—the increase being only on the contents. To somewhat offset the large increases which will apply to the larger buildings in the congested area, an increased reduction has been made for the installation of the Dominion Messenger and Signal company's service, or the May-Oatway automatic alarms.