SASKATCHEWAN HAIL INSURANCE RESULTS

This Hazardous Business Has Resulted Favourably to Companies This Year

Companies writing hail insurance business in Saskatchewan, exclusive of the Saskatchewan Hail Insurance Association, enjoyed a premium income of $2,116,330 this year with losses of $772,767, the loss ratio being as reported 36.51 per cent., according to a statement prepared by A. E. Fisher, superintendent of insurance for Saskatchewan. The figures as given below are preliminary net returns and are subject to head office revision when reinsurance is taken into consideration. The premium income and losses as reported are as follows:

Company.	Premiums.	Losses.
Acadia Fire	$ 63,108	$ 32,185
Arcola Mutual	39,968	22,903
British America	49,275	16,097
British Crown	81,457	29,405
Canadian Indemnity	154,110	74,089
Canada Security	111,067	58,752
Connecticut Fire	176,471	60,692
Dominion Fire	57,012	11,731
Employers' Liability	212,063	54,314
Excess	115,462	44,383
Farmers Fire & Hail	29,682	9,763
Great North	97,967	62,845
Home	293,507	109,741
Hartford Fire	204,073	84,666
Nova Scotia Fire	50,971	14,221
New York Underwriters	37,104	7,858
Rochester Underwriters	68,913	47,100
Winnipeg Fire	22,236	5,209
Westchester Fire (not reported)	....	....
United Assurance	51,752	26,803
Total	$2,116,330	$772,767

Drought Affected Business.

A comparative statement regarding the hail business, prepared by the superintendent, shows that in 1918 there was a falling off in the amount of hail premiums due largely to the condition of the crop in the western part of the Province. The early frost of July 23rd and 24th resulted in the cancellation of many contracts, all of which had an appreciable effect on the income of the companies. In all 24,556 policies were issued by the companies in 1918, the cancellations totalling 567 in number.

Comparative Statement.

Year.	Premiums.	Losses.	Loss Ratio.
1909	$ 281,035	$ 180,213	64
1910	547,995	237,537	43
1911	787,253	532,840	67
1912	1,051,125	757,640	72
1913	783,194	485,305	61
1914	747,838	173,443	23
1915	1,363,001	438,619	32
1916	1,417,853	1,872,408	132
1917	2,409,746	687,085	28
1918	2,116,330	772,767	36

No Control Over Rates.

When questioned as to what effect the showing of the companies during 1918 would have on the rate charged in 1919, Mr. Fisher stated that the question of rates does not come under the jurisdiction of the insurance department, but that the rates are decided upon by the Canadian Hail Association of which practically all the companies are members, due regard being given to the individual experience of the companies in various districts of the Province.

In the course of a discussion relative to hail insurance, Mr. Fisher spoke most favorably of the work done by the adjusting bureau during the past season, the first year that there has been any uniformity of adjustment on the part of the stock companies. In former years each company had its own adjusters, but this year loss claims were sent to the central bureau by which the appraisal of damage was made.

"I am pleased to say," said Mr. Fisher, "that in 1919 a number of hail insurance companies will be larger than in any year since hail insurance was written in the Province. Several very strong companies have signified their intention of entering the Saskatchewan field. In 1919 there will certainly be a greater demand for hail protection due to the increased acreage. This year the volume of hail insurance underwritten in the western part of the Province was much less than in former years, due, undoubtedly, to the storms of the first week in June. With new crop areas broken and the exceptional opportunities for plowing this fall there should be a larger crop acreage next year than in 1918, the result being that these companies will be called upon to give larger covering. Our companies will be well able to handle all the insurance that may be offered them."

The Saskatchewan Hail Assurance Association, which does not come within the jurisdiction of the superintendent of insurance, had losses of $1,030,000, with which it has funds of $820,000 wherewith to settle.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK DISCUSSED

Reconstruction came in for another discussion at a meeting of St. James Literary Society, Montreal, held on November 21st. Papers were read by Mr. Francis Hankin and by Mr. W. F. Chipman, who are officers of the Canadian National Reconstruction Groups.

In opening up his subject, Mr. Hankin spoke of the new psychology in the people which resulted from the war, and that the very fight for democracy had resulted in new conceptions of the real meaning of the term, the soldiers as much as the civilians having pondered over conditions that existed before the war. "Any attempt to perpetuate the bureaucratic methods which have been tolerated during the war, or to legislate for any particular class," declared the speaker, "will meet with strenuous opposition." Developments that had emerged out of the war period were the recognition of the power of the workers, a clearer understanding as to the duty of the state and, conversely, the wider duty of the individual towards the state, also the responsibility of individual states for the maintenance of international goodwill.

Tracing the work which had to be undertaken by the Canadian Reconstruction Groups, Mr. Hankin said that demobilization was not merely a military arrangement, since there was wrapped up in it such questions as the proper absorption of men, the interests of labor in regard to the keeping up of wages, etc., and for this reason railways, boards of trade and other economic interests were rightly being consulted. In regard to the employment question, he urged that a federal body would be highly desirable, and that all bureaux of this sort should be conducted by those really fitted to deal with the clientele.

On the human side, Mr. Hankin talked much of the new conceptions of looking after the welfare of employees, not only in giving them living wages, but in enlarging their recreational and educational scope. As regards big corporations and such organizations, the tendency seemed to be in the direction of still increasing, and the two alternatives seemed to be either that these would cause considerable trouble, or that they might become democratized, so that the workers would share the profits and management. One development in Great Britain which Mr. Hankin suggested was of great importance, was the establishment of national councils for various trades and industries. Other phases touched upon were education, women's place in industry, land settlement, aliens as immigrants, taxation and Imperial relations.

Mr. Warwick Chipman followed with a short paper. He put forward as a possible condition of things to be expected, first six months for demobilization, then three or four years of general activity and progress, followed by a slump in industry. This slump, combined with a certain amount of discontent among returned men, might produce a dangerous atmosphere, and in order to keep out Bolshevism, class differences must be overcome. He thought the Whitley report on industrial councils in Great Britain showed how much could be done in the way of a better understanding of labor. "We don't want to treat the labor question as a mere matter of bargaining," he said; "we have to consider that working people want not only money, but some security, some surplus, and the whole question is to consider not merely matters of justice, but mutual sympathy between both parties."

The meeting was presided over by Mr. A. T. Chapman, and among the general business transacted, a resolution was adopted calling for extradition and trial of "fugitive rulers, councillors and commanders" responsible for launching the war, and for brutal and illegal methods in prosecuting it.

The board of directors of the Canadian Northern Railway intend shortly to make a trip of inspection over the eastern lines of the Government railways. It will be remembered that a trip over the western lines of the Canadian Northern was recently completed.