



ONE YEAR'S GROWTH

The strength of a bank is tested by its ability to successfully weather financial storms.

The strength of a Life Company is tested by its ability to grow in "hard times."
Last year the New Business of

The Mutual Life
ASSURANCE
OF CANADA

amounted to \$7,081,402, a gain over 1906 of \$1,577,855, bringing up the total insurance in force to \$51,091,848, a gain over 1906 of \$4,179,440—and yet the operating expenses were just about the same as last year.

The Company also made substantial gains over 1906—in Assets, \$1,271,255; in Reserves, \$906,221; in Income, \$171,147, and in Surplus, \$300,341.

Agencies in all the principal Towns and Cities in Canada.

HEAD OFFICE - - WATERLOO, ONT.



IF YOU WANT
HEALTH
STRENGTH
VIGOR
APPETITE
DRINK
Cosgrave's
Ale

OR

Cosgrave's Porter

Made from pure
IRISH MALT.

Or a delicious blend of both

Half and Half

Always Ask for Cosgrave's

**The Hamilton Steel
and Iron Company**
Limited

PIG IRON
Foundry, Basic, Malleable.

FORGINGS
of Every Description.

High Grade Bar Iron.
Open Hearth Bar Steel.

HAMILTON - ONTARIO

road, led them up a stream, walking in the water so that their footsteps might leave no trace, and thus away into the barren mountains which rose between them and the great swamp. On the crest of these mountains Alan turned and looked back towards Bonsa-Town. There, far across the fertile valley, was the hateful, river-encircled place. There fell the great cataract in the roar of which he had lived for so many weeks. There were the black cedars and there gleamed the roofs of the Gold House, his prison, where dwelt the Asika and the dreadful fetishes of which she was the priestess. To him it was like the vision of a nightmare, he could scarcely think it real. And yet by this time doubtless they sought him far and wide.

They went on across the mountains, till in the afternoon once more they saw the road running beneath them like a ribbon, and at the end of it the lagoon. Now they rested a while, and held a consultation while they ate. Across that lagoon they could not escape without a canoe.

"Lord," said the Mungana presently, "yesterday when these cannibals were let go a swift runner was sent forward commanding that a good boat should be provisioned and made ready for them, and by now doubtless this has been done. Let them descend to the road, walk on to the bay and ask for the boat. Look! yonder far away a tongue of land covered with trees juts out into the lake. We will make our way thither, and after nightfall this chief can row back to it and take us into the canoe."

Alan said that the plan was good, but Jeeki shook his head, asking what would happen if Fahni, finding himself safe upon the water, thought it wisest not to come to fetch them.

Alan translated his words to the old chief, whereon Fahni wanted to fight Jeeki because of the slur that he had cast upon his honour.

So they separated, Fahni and his men slipping down to the road, which they did without being seen by anyone, while Alan, Jeeki and the Mungana bore away to the right towards the promontory. The road was long and rough, and though by good fortune they met no one, since the few who dwelt in these wild parts had gone up to Bonsa-Town to be present at the great feast, the sun was sinking before ever they reached the place, moreover this promontory proved to be covered with dense thorn scrub, through which they must force a way in the gathering darkness, not without hurt and difficulty.

Here they waited for three long hours, but no boat came.

"All up a gum-tree, Major," said Jeeki. "Old blackguard, Fanny, bolt and leave us here, and to-morrow Asika nubble us. Better have gone down to bay, steal his boat and leave him behind, because Asika no want him."

Alan made no answer. He was too tired, and although he trusted Fahni, it seemed likely enough that Jeeki was right, or perhaps the cannibals had not been able to get the boat. Well, he had done his best, and if fate overtook them it was no fault of his. He began to doze, for even their imminent peril could not keep his eyes open, then presently awoke with a start, for in his sleep he thought he heard the sound of paddles beating the quiet water.

He woke his companions, who slept at his side, and very silently they rose, stepping from rock to rock till they reached the canoe and entered it. It was not a large craft, barely big enough to hold them all, indeed; but they found room, and then at a sign from Fahni the oarsmen gave way so heartily that within half an

hour they had lost sight of the accu-

sed shores of Asiki-land, although presently its mountains showed up clearly beneath the moon.

Meanwhile Fahni had told his tale. It appeared that when he reached the bay he found the Asiki headman who dwelt there, and those under him, in a state of considerable excitement. Rumours had reached them that someone had escaped from Bonsa-Town; they thought it was the Mungana. Fahni asked who had brought the rumour, whereon the head man answered that it came "in a dream," and would say no more. Then he demanded the canoe which had been promised to him and his people, and the headman admitted that it was ready in accordance with orders received from the Asika, but demurred to letting him have it. A long argument followed, in the midst of which Fahni and his men got into the canoe, the headman apparently not daring to use force to prevent him. Just as they were pushing off, a messenger arrived from Bonsa-Town, reeling with exhaustion and his tongue hanging from his jaws, who called out that it was the white man who had escaped with his servant and the Mungana, and that although they were believed to be still hidden in the holy woods near Bonsa-Town, none were to be allowed to leave the bay. So the headman shouted to Fahni to return, but he pretended not to hear, and rowed away, nor did anyone attempt to follow him.

Alan thanked him heartily for his faithfulness, and they paddled on steadily, putting mile after mile between them and Asiki-land. He wondered whether he had seen the last of that country and its inhabitants. Something within him answered, No. He was sure that the Asika would not allow him to depart in peace without making some desperate effort to recapture him. Far as he was away, it seemed to him that he could feel her fury hanging over him like a cloud, a cloud that would burst in a rain of blood. Doubtless it would have burst already, had it not been for the accident that he and his companions were still supposed to be hiding in the woods. But that error must be discovered, and then would come the pursuit.

He looked at the full moon shining upon him, and reflected that at this very hour he should have seated upon the chair of state, wedding, or rather being wedded, by the Asika, in the presence of Big Bonsa and all the people. His eye fell upon the Mungana, who had also been destined to play an important part in that ceremony. At once he saw that there was something wrong with the man. A curious change had come over his emaciated face. It was working like that of a maniac. Foam appeared upon his dyed lips, his haunted eyes rolled, his thin hands gripped the side of the canoe, and he began to sing, or rather to howl like a dog baying at the stars. Jeeki hit him on the head and bade him be silent, but he took no notice, even when he hit him again more heavily. Presently came the climax. The man sprang up in the canoe, causing it to rock from side to side. He pointed to the full moon above and howled more loudly than before; he pointed to something that he seemed to see in the air near by, and gibbered as though in terror. Then his eyes fixed themselves upon the water.

Harder and harder he stared, his head sinking lower every moment, till at length, without another sound, very quietly and unexpectedly, he went over the side of the boat. For a few seconds they saw his bright-coloured garments sinking to the depths, then he vanished.

(To be continued.)..



THE STANDARD LOAN COMPANY

CAPITAL - \$1,125,000
RESERVE - 50,000
ASSETS - 2,250,000

Vice-President and Managing Director:
W. S. DINNICK.

Director:
RIGHT HONORABLE LORD STRATHCONA AND MOUNT ROYAL, K.C.M.G.

HEAD OFFICE:

24 Adelaide St. East, TORONTO, ONT.

Debentures for one, two, three, four and five years issued, bearing interest at five per cent. per annum, payable half-yearly.

Write for booklet entitled "SOME CARDINAL POINTS."

CANADIAN HOTEL DIRECTORY

TORONTO HOTELS

King Edward Hotel
—Fireproof—
Accommodation for 750 guests. \$1.50 up.
American and European Plans.

Palmer House
200 Rooms. \$2.00 up.
American and European.

ONTARIO HOTELS

Caledonia Springs Hotel
(C. P. Ry.)
CALEDONIA SPRINGS, ONT.
American Plan, \$3.00 up.
Accommodation for 200 Guests.

The New Russell
OTTAWA, CANADA
250 rooms.
American Plan \$3.00 to \$5.00.
European Plan \$1.50 to \$3.50.
\$150,000.00 spent upon Improvements.

MONTREAL HOTELS

The Place Viger (C. P. Ry.)
American Plan, \$3.50 up.
Accommodation for 200 Guests.

QUEBEC HOTELS

The Chateau Frontenac
(C. P. Ry.)
American Plan, \$3.00 up.
Accommodation for 450 Guests.

MANITOBA HOTELS

The Royal Alexandra (C. P. Ry.)
WINNIPEG, MAN.
European \$2.00. American, \$4.00.
Accommodation for 600 Guests.

BRITISH COLUMBIA HOTELS

Glacier House (C. P. Ry.)
GLACIER, B. C.
American Plan \$3.50 up.
Accommodation for 200 Guests.

Hotel Vancouver (C. P. Ry.)
VANCOUVER, B. C.
American Plan \$3.50 up.
Accommodation for 400 Guests.