

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The 53rd annual report of the Canada Life is unusually interesting, for many reasons. The Company has during the past year undergone changes in both location and management, which, however, have not affected unfavorably the old institution, for the gains in all branches of its business have been satisfactory. The surplus of the Company over all liabilities is shown to be no less a sum than \$1,968,712.85, and the disposition of this large fund so as to conserve the best interests of old policy-holders, and at the same time safeguard the holders of new assurances, has called forth the very best efforts of Senator Cox, and his associates on the board.

There has been for some time amongst those who are identified with life insurance finance a feeling of unrest. We have been on the verge of a transition period, and matters were finally brought to a head by the action of the Dominion Government at its last session. The decline in the rates of interest to be realized on first class securities has been so very marked, and so continuous that such official recognition of it came none too soon. The Act stipulates that the Canadian life insurance companies must in the future assume that they can earn only 3 1-2 per cent. on their invested funds, instead of 4 1-2 per cent. as heretofore. The companies are allowed fourteen years in which to bring about this change in so far as the old business is concerned, so that it will not bear unduly on the weaker ones, but, there is a strong probability that before many years have elapsed, all of the business will be on the 3 1-2 basis. It, therefore, behooves those companies which study the true and permanent interests of their policy-holders to move in the direction of stronger reserve funds as soon and as rapidly as possible, more especially in view of still lower interest rates.

Provision to the extent of \$225,000 had already been made a year ago towards the required change, and this amount has now been supplemented by an additional \$275,000, making in all a fund of half a million towards the desired goal. The statement of Mr. Sanderson, the actuary of the Company, informs us that half the bridge is already crossed, so that in a year or two at most the Company will have met the requirements of the Act. In addition to this a bonus addition profit has been declared of \$7.50 per year on each \$1,000 of assurance for the past five years.

No sensible policy-holder will complain of the prudent and courageous course adopted by President Cox and his colleagues in reducing the liberal additions hitherto made to policies out of the profits, for the purpose of adding to the special reserve referred to in the excellent report of the company.

The following tabulated statement indicates in three of the most important items, the growth of half a century.

Year	Annual Income	Assurance in Force	Total Assets
1850.....	\$27,838	\$814,903	\$41,073
1860.....	133,446	3,365,407	604,627
1870.....	273,728	6,404,437	1,090,098
1880.....	835,856	21,517,759	4,297,862
1890.....	2,093,881	62,895,695	11,022,440
1900.....	3,052,559	80,229,688	21,364,062

The actual business of the year under review represented 3,775 policies for \$7,967,626.83, which is, with pardonable pride, referred to in the report as "the largest amount of business ever transacted by the company in any one year." The amount of the total business in force shows an increase of almost \$5,000,000 over that of a year ago.

The report of the directors states that the organization of the departments presided over by Mr. H. B. Walker, treasurer, and Mr. F. Sanderson, actuary, has placed the company in "a position to meet the ever-increasing demands of modern business conditions." Another interesting feature of the report is the presentation of the views of many prominent Canadian financiers on the question of the probable rate of interest for the next quarter of a century.

Altogether, the latest meeting of the Canada Life must have thoroughly satisfied the large number of policy-holders and shareholders present that the wisdom and prudence which has always been so marked in the administration of the company's affairs, and the honorable dealing with its policy-holders which so distinguished the respected former President, Mr. Ramsay, is to be continued by his successor, Senator Cox, whose sound judgment is now being given to the control and direction of the policy and affairs of the Canada Life Assurance Company. We congratulate Messrs. Cox, Ramsay, Marling, and the officials generally throughout the Dominion, upon a report which speaks so eloquently of the past progress and future prospects of the company.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—Mr. Charles Alcock, manager of the Royal Insurance Company, is expected in New York city, about March 14. He has not been in the United States for about eight years. Mr. Alcock will take a trip through the field soon after his arrival, visiting Chicago, Boston, Philadelphia, Louisville and other points in the United States. He will also visit Canada.

INSURANCE BUSINESS IN PRUSSIA.—A cablegram from Berlin to New York says:—The Ludwig Loewe Co. has declared a 34 per cent. dividend, and the Magdeburg Fire Insurance Company has declared a 30 per cent. dividend, as against 42 for the previous year, its results in the United States having been very unfavorable.

The Mutual Life Insurance Company is continuing its negotiations with the Prussian Ministry and offers to invest its entire reserve on Prussian policies in funds acceptable to the authorities instead of the required 50 per cent., but it declines to sell American securities. The company hopes for an acceptance of these terms.