

originally formed under a deed of settlement in 1824, but was subsequently registered under the Companies' Acts, and was regulated by an Act passed in 1885 and the regulations made thereunder. Its capital was £5,000,000. The terms of the proposed amalgamation were contained in a provisional agreement made in January, 1902. On the previous Saturday, Justice Buckley reserved the point, whether the Alliance Co. possessed power to acquire the petitioning company's business on the terms proposed, probably having in his mind a most unfortunate blunder which occurred in another case, and which led to a not undesirable amalgamation being dropped at the eleventh hour. On the 26th ult., however, having heard Mr. Birrell, K. C., and Mr. B. J. Parker, for the Imperial, and Mr. Kirby for the Alliance, his Lordship made an order sanctioning and confirming the provisional agreement between the two companies, and ordering it to be carried into effect. So ends an interesting chapter in insurance history, and the Alliance management can now push vigorously ahead. Under the terms of the agreement the Imperial Life shareholders will receive 28,125 fully-paid Alliance shares, of the nominal value of £1 each, and the business of the former company, as it existed on January 1 last, will be worked by the Alliance Assurance Co., at a fixed cost of 10 per cent. of the premium income, and the participating policy-holders will rank for the same proportion of the surplus of their own funds as they were entitled to receive before the transfer. As regards the American business of the Imperial Fire, this is being either run off or re-insured, while the home and foreign risks of that company are being carefully scrutinised and revised." On this head the "Times" remarks as under:

"When this process has been completed it is expected that the Alliance and Imperial will have a larger and more valuable home fire business than almost any other British insurance company. In order that the current year's accounts may not be complicated, that part of the Imperial's fire risks which are being abandoned or re-insured will be placed in a separate liquidation account, and the part which is retained will be combined with the Alliance's business in a single fire revenue account."

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY ANNUAL STATEMENT.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway, held in this city on the 11th inst., a statement was presented which shows largely increased traffic earnings and of income from other sources. The figures for year ended 30th June last and those for year ended same date 1901 are as follows:—

	1902.	1901.	Increase.
	\$	\$	\$
Gross earnings for year	37,503,054	30,855,203	6,647,851
Working expenses....	23,417,141	18,745,828	4,671,313
Net earnings.....	14,085,912	12,109,375	1,976,537
Income from other sources.....	958,827	933,425	25,402
	15,044,739	13,042,800	2,001,939
Less fixed charges, including interest on land bonds.....	7,334,825	7,305,835	28,990
	7,709,914	5,736,965	1,972,949
Less applied against cost of steamers.....	150,000	150,000	—
Net revenue available for dividends.....	7,559,914	5,686,965	1,972,949

On the common stock a dividend of 2½ per cent. was declared, and 2 per cent. on preferred.

The following shows the development of the business of the Canadian Pacific Railway since 1897:—

	1902	1897.	Increase.
	\$	\$	\$
Gross earnings.....	37,503,054	20,681,596	16,821,458
Expenses.....	23,417,141	12,574,015	10,843,126
Net earnings.....	14,085,912	8,107,581	5,978,332
Other receipts.....	958,827	511,165	447,662
Gross income.....	15,044,739	8,618,746	6,425,994
Fixed charges, etc....	7,484,825	6,911,974	572,851
Surplus for year....	7,559,914	1,706,772	5,853,143

At this date, 1897, the shares of this railway were quoted at 72½ to 73, and in 1901, 111½ to 112. The harvest, which is now about ready for the sickle, is so large as to ensure a long continuance of heavy freight receipts, and the large influx of settlers this season has not only added to the passenger traffic, but has enabled the Company to dispose of an exceptionally wide area of its lands, the receipts from which are being, or will be, applied to the redemption of land bonds, and so reducing the fixed charges for interest. The enlarged share capital will make a proportionately increased demand for dividends which the traffic receipts show every sign of earning

ROYAL VICTORIA LIFE.

We are informed that the business of the Company, for the six months to the 1st July, shows a very satisfactory increase over that for the same period of 1901, the increase in applications being 62 per cent., in assurance issued, 64 per cent., and in cash premiums, 39 per cent. The Company has also increased its deposit with the Dominion Government, the market value being over \$200,000, which amount, with one exception, is larger than that of any other Canadian life company.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 7th August, 1902, Clearings, \$2,252,300; Balances, \$600,093.