

FIRE COMPANIES' EXPERIENCE BY PROVINCES.

In the Dominion insurance blue-book recently issued, there appear for the first time statistics of the business of the Dominion-licensed fire companies arranged according to provinces. The details given are net premiums written (licensed re-insurance being deducted), and the net losses incurred. From these statistics, we have worked out the subjoined summary tables, showing the experience of all the companies and of the different classes of companies in the various provinces during 1916, on the basis described. Last year's experience of all the Dominion-licensed companies by provinces is as follows:—

ALL COMPANIES.

	Net Premiums Written	Net Losses Incurred	% Losses to Premiums
Alberta.....	\$2,087,277	\$ 996,570	47.8
British Columbia.....	2,915,504	1,304,337	44.7
Manitoba.....	2,625,015	1,372,885	52.3
New Brunswick.....	1,285,767	791,084	61.5
Nova Scotia.....	1,251,035	629,454	50.3
Ontario.....	9,747,473	7,367,395	75.6
Prince Edward Island..	113,344	213,751	188.6
Quebec.....	6,987,678	3,406,765	48.7
Saskatchewan.....	2,342,632	917,892	39.2
Yukon.....	2,584	None

It will be seen that the companies' experience last year was particularly bad in the two provinces which are at opposite poles in the matter of premium production—Ontario and Prince Edward Island. The \$100,000 excess of losses over premiums in the case of the Garden Province is doubtless a result of the conflagration in December at Summerside, P.E.I., involving property damage of about \$300,000. The Ontario losses in 1916 were swelled by the Northern Ontario forest fires in July and August, and by the Quaker Oats plant loss at Peterborough in December. Each of these entailed insurance payments in excess of a million dollars. Additionally, there was a steady sequence of factory fires of fairly large proportions in the province all through the year, and a large number of barn fires during the fall, although these latter probably affected the small farmers' mutuals to a greater extent than the Dominion-licensed companies. In one way and another, however, the companies found their Ontario business last year the very reverse of profitable. There is a touch of irony in the fact that all through the year several Ontario public men were making the welkin ring with allegations of gross over-charges by the companies and, inferentially, stupendous profits.

For the purposes of argument, these statistics of the experience of a single year are, of course, useless. But if the Dominion authorities continue to collect this information, there will be available in a few years a very interesting and valuable body of statistics regarding the growth of the fire business by provinces, the provincial distribution of premium income, and the loss experience by provinces. The attached tables show the 1916 experience of the different classes of companies operating in Canada under Dominion licenses:—

CANADIAN COMPANIES.

	Net Premiums Written	Net Losses Incurred	% Losses to Premiums
Alberta.....	\$ 457,879	\$ 220,297	48.1
British Columbia.....	519,507	230,564	44.4
Manitoba.....	645,907	285,950	44.3

New Brunswick.....	230,501	126,580	54.9
Nova Scotia.....	222,406	133,992	60.2
Ontario.....	2,144,939	1,588,002	74.0
Prince Edward Island..	18,232	45,419	249.1
Quebec.....	1,339,572	598,649	44.7
Saskatchewan.....	563,388	256,168	45.4
Yukon.....	97	None

BRITISH COMPANIES.

	Net Premiums Written	Net Losses Incurred	% Losses to Premiums
Alberta.....	\$ 905,417	\$ 413,105	45.6
British Columbia.....	1,432,321	650,980	45.5
Manitoba.....	1,062,839	616,461	58.0
New Brunswick.....	612,783	389,877	63.6
Nova Scotia.....	467,457	241,833	51.7
Ontario.....	5,038,354	3,809,190	75.6
Prince Edward Island..	62,488	135,708	217.2
Quebec.....	3,904,454	1,976,059	50.6
Saskatchewan.....	956,687	341,092	35.6
Yukon.....	850	None

AMERICAN AND FRENCH COMPANIES.

	Net Premiums Written	Net Losses Incurred	% Losses to Premiums
Alberta.....	\$ 723,981	\$ 363,168	50.2
British Columbia.....	963,676	422,793	43.9
Manitoba.....	916,269	470,474	51.3
New Brunswick.....	442,483	274,627	62.1
Nova Scotia.....	561,172	253,629	45.2
Ontario.....	2,564,180	1,970,203	76.1
Prince Edward Island..	32,624	64,014	196.2
Quebec.....	1,743,652	832,057	47.7
Saskatchewan.....	822,557	320,632	38.9
Yukon.....	1,637	None

THE ALLEGED "EXPERT."

The race of "experts" who solicit the job of examining fire insurance policies for the holders, with a view to giving advice upon the regularity of forms and the quality of the company, seems to increase. This is simply a device started by smart brokers to get hold of a batch of policies in order to copy the names of companies, amounts insured, rates of premium, and, most important of all, information of the dates of expiration on each policy. Their idea has been imitated by so-called "adjusters for the insured," who are hungry for business. With the data given him, a smart broker may organize a raid upon the line of insurance, and under some plea or other obtain a pull with the property holder and persuade him to turn over the account to the so-called "expert." Like the broker, the "expert" adjuster does not offer to air his opinions merely for the benefit of his health.

GERMAN AMERICAN TAKES \$1,000,000 OF U. S. LOAN.

The German-American Insurance Company of New York, which is one of the largest strictly American fire insurance companies, with over \$23,000,000 assets, has just entered its subscription for \$1,000,000 of the United States Government Liberty Loan bonds, being the first United States fire company to announce this action. This company, which is neither a branch nor part of any foreign institution, was organized in 1872, under the laws of New York State. Its directors and officers, all Americans born in the United States, include many of the most prominent citizens and financiers.

Fire Marshal Heaton's statistics of Ontario fires for the first three months of 1917 show 2,583 fires during the period involving a loss of \$3,321,931. The insurance loss was \$2,557,754 and \$764,177 loss was not covered by insurance.