

POSSIBILITIES OF STATE FIRE INSURANCE.

The tendency of the times seems to be in the direction of a more paternalistic attitude on the part of the State governments in relation to fire insurance. In fact, if the present trend continues, it might not be unsafe to predict the ultimate adoption of a socialistic conduct of the fire insurance business by the respective States. State regulation of rating systems has already gone so far that the rates might about as well be made by State officials; indeed, the conditions in some sections are approaching a point where about the only functions which will remain for the fire insurance companies themselves will be the payment of losses and expenses, the State governing the premium income, or at least preventing any increase therein except that due to augmented volume of business. As, under such circumstances, unprofitable rates are to be expected, the companies

might not be able to long exist thereunder; then in the event of their failure or withdrawal the State might be obliged, in the interest of its citizens, to undertake all the functions now exercised by a fire insurance company. Just how soon a beginning may be made in the writing of fire insurance by a State it is impossible to foretell; but if the insurance companies are forced by unreasonable legislation to withdraw from some State the authorities of such State may, in casting about for a plan to relieve its citizens from the consequences of legislative folly, light upon and put into practice the idea of State insurance. It is probable that it would not take many years to demonstrate that such a plan would be expensive, if not impracticable, and the regular insurance companies would doubtless be welcomed back joyfully. Possibly some such experiment will be needed to convince advocates of State insurance of the impracticability of the scheme.—*The Spectator.*

FIRE PREMIUMS AND LOSSES IN CANADA, 1911—Concluded.

COMPANIES	Per cent. of Losses incurred to Premiums						BUSINESS OF 1911.		BUSINESS OF 1912.		p.c. Losses* incurred to Premiums
	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	Net Cash received for Premiums	Net Losses incurred.	Net Cash received for Premiums	Net Losses incurred.	
British—											
Alliance	35.9	64.1	58.5	31.7	45.80	55.85	\$199,726	\$111,556	\$206,684	\$98,528	47.67
Atlas	48.6	52.6	64.5	46.0	63.34	37.14	459,899	308,771	497,116	279,412	56.27
Caledonian	43.0	52.1	78.8	41.6	58.90	51.98	388,130	201,744	431,217	212,988	49.39
Commercial Union	37.8	46.6	49.6	46.1	55.65	53.97	1,233,650	605,766	792,177	405,406	51.18
Employers' Liability . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	31.33	95,484	29,917	174,606	55,678	31.88
General Accident . . . . .	...	...	6.9	37.6	66.51	77.12	253,073	185,174	264,818	122,051	46.09
Guardian	45.8	54.6	64.0	52.7	57.76	63.88	752,342	480,584	827,130	510,638	61.74
Law Union & Rock	42.2	50.3	59.7	44.5	53.57	51.74	183,058	94,718	212,748	110,703	52.04
Liv. & Lon. & Globe	49.4	66.2	59.1	56.3	59.64	53.70	1,299,799	697,947	1,297,207	746,935	57.58
London & Lancashire	33.3	38.2	62.6	47.6	54.36	64.21	555,642	357,795	614,269	250,065	40.71
London Assurance	34.3	52.7	54.0	27.9	40.43	35.75	232,948	83,285	252,008	107,333	42.59
North British	48.6	60.4	56.8	54.5	62.67	57.80	839,615	485,336	940,875	457,510	48.63
Northern	43.7	62.9	76.3	50.2	52.93	17.49	564,135	267,916	636,980	311,264	48.86
Norwich Union	45.0	45.7	63.8	44.2	54.96	17.23	723,590	341,933	770,887	420,121	54.50
Palatine . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73,594	4,910	6.67
Phoenix of London	45.4	50.3	54.5	54.6	62.20	14.66	1,055,569	471,408	996,925	522,885	52.45
Provincial . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	9.13	18,525	1,702	29,382	2,964	10.93
Royal	53.3	63.0	50.6	52.5	56.41	33.37	1,193,833	637,166	1,267,798	727,149	57.35
Royal Exchange . . . . .	...	...	...	...	2.35	10.23	213,465	85,893	322,005	127,897	39.71
Scottish Union & Nat	30.6	36.3	67.2	40.0	42.85	18.83	294,003	143,560	349,315	135,758	38.86
Sun	47.5	58.2	54.0	58.0	51.71	30.18	388,831	234,002	422,328	228,375	54.07
Union	64.1	56.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	438,649	193,230	44.05
Yorkshire . . . . .	...	45.8	36.8	51.4	61.64	51.11	259,976	132,862	273,327	119,321	43.66
Totals & Averages	46.6	55.5	58.1	49.7	57.02	53.83	11,205,694	6,029,035	12,092,125	6,151,121	50.87
Recapitulation—											
Canadian companies	52.7	53.6	72.1	55.9	60.03	53.08	4,727,141	2,509,377	5,063,409	2,586,805	51.09
British companies	46.6	55.5	58.1	51.4	57.02	53.83	11,205,694	6,029,035	12,092,125	6,151,121	50.87
Amer. & French com.	40.4	51.3	47.8	46.7	59.72	48.95	4,642,420	2,272,517	6,038,984	3,033,510	50.23
Totals & Averages	46.7	54.2	58.9	50.47	58.38	52.54	20,575,255	10,810,929	23,194,518	11,771,436	50.75

Twenty Years' Premiums Received and Losses Incurred by Fire Companies with Dominion Licenses.

(Compiled by The Chronicle.)

Years	Premiums Received	Losses Incurred	Per-centage	Years	Premiums Received	Losses Incurred	Per-centage
1893	\$6,793,595	\$5,113,905	75.55	1903	\$11,384,762	\$5,799,279	50.94
1894	6,711,369	4,612,019	68.69	1904	13,169,882	14,191,847	107.76
1895	6,943,382	4,812,764	69.31	1905	14,285,671	6,185,612	43.30
1896	7,075,850	4,338,506	61.31	1906	14,687,963	6,863,829	46.73
1897	7,157,661	4,609,997	64.41	1907	16,122,922	8,742,994	54.23
1898	7,350,131	5,395,898	74.37	1908	17,572,113	10,347,567	58.88
1899	7,910,492	4,552,161	57.75	1909	17,049,464	8,604,477	50.47
1900	8,331,948	8,078,931	97.00	1910	18,725,531	10,931,918	58.38
1901	9,650,348	6,783,617	70.29	1911	20,575,255	10,810,929	52.54
1902	10,577,084	4,288,562	40.54	1912	23,194,518	11,771,436	50.75