

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ASSURANCE CORPORATION LIMITED.

That the business of the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation continues to expand was evidenced at the 37th annual meeting, held last month in London. The chairman Lord Claud Hamilton in submitting the report to the shareholders remarked that it was the best in the history of the corporation. The accounts neither show or contain any weak spots in any class of business transacted, by this great corporation, with a world wide reputation of the very highest, amongst its policy-holders. The energy and professional skill with which its career has been directed, marks it as one of the most notable of British insurance institutions.

The total premiums for 1917 were \$16,983,153, compared with \$12,281,020 for 1916. This large increase of \$4,702,133 is all the more remarkable as the increase in premiums for previous year was the largest that had ever taken place in the corporations history to that date. It is satisfactory to note that the increase for 1917 was derived from almost every country operated in, and in every class of business. The payments under policies amounted to \$7,773,850, or 45.8 per cent. compared with \$6,065,030, or 48.6 per cent. for 1916. After payment of commissions, expenses of management, etc., the insurance fund was increased from \$9,441,820, at which figure it stood on 1st January, 1917, to \$12,783,497. Of this fund \$6,856,547 is reserve for unexpired risks, calculated at 40 per cent. of the premiums, and \$5,926,990 is total estimated liability in respect of outstanding losses.

Details of the balance sheet given on another page show total assets have been increased from \$16,961,099 in the previous year to \$21,379,580. Total reserves aggregate \$18,295,351. Investments in the highest class of securities total \$15,632,761. Cash in hand and on current account amounted to \$705,298 compared with \$386,350 the previous year. Combining the investments and cash gives a total of \$16,338,060 at December 31st, 1917, as compared with \$13,439,963 at December 31st, 1916. There is the very large increase shown in those two items of no less a sum than \$2,898,097.

The Corporation in Canada.

The corporation has been operating in Canada for many years, with a strong organization, under able management in both casualty and fire insurance. Notwithstanding the Governments monopoly of the Workman's Compensation business in the Provinces of British Columbia and Nova Scotia last year the casualty business of the corporation has shown an increase of \$95,557. This constitutes a tribute to the energy and latent powers of the corporation's Canadian management.

The fire business of the corporation in Canada has been under the management of Mr. John Jenkins for past seven years. The results are a strong testimony to good underwriting. The net fire premiums in Canada for 1917 amounted to \$548,470 a substantial increase of \$118,537, net losses incurred amounting to \$305,286, which includes

full provision for losses in the Halifax disaster.

The total Canadian premiums amounted to \$1,423,966 compared with \$1,211,862 for 1916.

A large organization in the various casualty lines including automobile insurance has been built up by the Employers' Liability in Canada. Last year the corporation added to its other lines of insurance that of burglary and boiler insurance, and we understand a license is now being taken out for the transaction of Hail insurance. Mr. C. W. I. Woodland, of Toronto, general manager of the Corporation for Canada and Newfoundland is recognized as an able Casualty Underwriter.

COMMERCIAL PLATE GLASS ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The Commercial Plate Assurance Company, Montreal, whose advertisement appears on another page was founded ten years ago by Mr. Isidore Crepeau. This Company makes a specialty of insuring plate glass, and commends itself to merchants for the insuring of plate glass show windows, etc., the importance of which is indicated by the fact that since the beginning of the war the cost of plate glass has increased from 100 to 300 per cent. It has therefore become more than ever of paramount importance that merchants protect their interests as fully as possible by having suitable insurance to cover possible plate glass loss. The Commercial Plate Glass Assurance Company, appears to have gained a high reputation for itself by its past record for prompt service and satisfactory dealings with clients, by prompt replacement of plate glass destroyed. The Company transacts the largest plate glass insurance in the Province of Quebec. Attention is drawn to the fact that plate glass to the extent of \$50,000 is carried by the Company for the convenience its clients, and to insure prompt replacement.

FOREST FIRES.

The danger season for forest fires is near at hand. Rapidly drying soil has left the old grass, brush, leaves, etc. in most perilous condition for starting fires.

An effort is being made by the fire rangers in this province to keep down the forest losses this year to a minimum. They will succeed only if every camper carefully extinguishes his campfire before leaving it, if every smoker refrains from tossing away burnt matches or tobacco in or near a wood, and if settlers in the newly-opened districts guard their land-clearing fires with the utmost care. Settlers' fires continue to be the very worst source of forest conflagration, although campers and careless smokers are close competitors.

"The fire rangers," says the Canadian Forestry Association, "want every good citizen to regard himself as a deputy ranger from now until November first.

"A Canadian forest was never worth so much as to-day, never gave so many jobs as to-day, never put money into circulation as it does this year."