

**THE IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.**

This company, now within two years of being a century old, shows signs of continuous growth in volume of business and proportionate financial strength, so that its jubilee promises to be its banner year. In 1900 the premiums amounted to \$3,683,440, which exceeded those of 1899 by \$362,210. The receipts from interest were \$263,565, which raised the total income to \$3,947,005. The revenue account of the company for last year is opened by the item: funds brought forward, \$4,288,615, making the total amount of the funds available for the year's business and obligations, \$3,235,620. Against this total were placed, losses, \$2,357,310; expenses, \$614,145; commission, \$676,720, making a total outgo of \$3,548,175 against \$8,235,620, the residue being \$4,687,445. This sum was thus appropriated: reserve for unexpired risks, \$1,227,810; general reserve, \$3,077,020; and profit and loss \$382,615. The total assets are stated to be \$9,040,160, of which amount \$8,161,610 are invested in securities, the balance of, \$878,550 being made of balances due to the company and cash at bankers. The paid up capital is \$1,500,000, and, besides the General Reserve, as above, of \$3,077,020, the Imperial has a Special Reserve of \$2,000,000. Manifestly the Company came through 1900, which was a very unfavourable year, in great strength.

The manager at head office, Mr. Cozens Smith, is reported to be retiring from that position, which he has held so many years to the advantage of the Imperial and his own honour. The company is ably represented in Canada by Mr. Kearley, whose courtesy and attention to policyholders' interests, as well as those of his company, have won him very general respect.

**JOTTINGS FROM TORONTO.**

BY ONE OF THE "CHRONICLE" STAFF.

Since my return from Toronto, where I spent a longer time than usual, you have asked me to jot down some items of interest to your readers respecting people I met while there, etc. My only excuse for not responding earlier is that I deferred doing so until a change of weather would make me, in common with our many insurance friends, feel more like work. Certainly Toronto is a busy city, and its people show their commendable enterprise in everything they take hold of. This applies especially to their insurance and financial men. The new million dollar hotel, which has been talked about for some years, is now in course of erection, and I am told that by next May visitors will find accommodation there such as cannot be obtained at any of the hotels. Business in Toronto appeared good; the stores are all occupied, and it is said that it is almost impossible at present to secure a decent house. Consequently new houses are being erected, values improving,

and rents have advanced about 25 per cent. above what they were about two years ago, all of which is encouraging to those institutions carrying real estate which fell into their hands some years ago.

Toronto is a very loyal city, and it would be highly pleasing to you if you could hear the congratulatory remarks respecting your articles on the evidence of prosperity in Great Britain, and showing, as you have, that in most things the great Empire is still a leading factor in the world's affairs.

I called on our friends at the Confederation Life, and met the courteous Managing Director, Mr. J. K. Macdonald and Col. Macdonald, who reported business somewhat quiet. The Superintendent, Mr. J. Tower Boyd, was very hospitable. A most agreeable incident in my visit was attendance at a garden party at the Alexandra College, of which Mr. J. K. Macdonald, Managing Director of the Confederate Life, is President, and one of his sons the Headmaster. Mr. Macdonald's genial courtesy is well known in business circles, but it shines most when playing the host. His kind invitation to the garden party was highly appreciated.

Superintendent Ramsay, of the Canada Life, said business was very good this year. President Cox was absent in England, but is expected home shortly with Assistant Manager Cox, who is reported to have entirely regained his health.

Mr. P. Bradshaw, Vice-President and Actuary of the Imperial, said that business was satisfactory, and he expected to have a good year's work. This is one of the steady, hard-working men in the business and a pleasant man to meet.

I learned that the Superintendent, Mr. R. Junkin, was leaving to join his brother, J. T. Junkin, in the management of the Combination Company, viz., Manufacturers', Temperance & General.

The National Life appears to be getting a nice business, and if hard work can do it, then Manager Matson, ably assisted by Secretary Sparling, should get their share of what is going.

Mr. Woods, Manager of the Continental Life, expressed himself as satisfied with their work, so far, this year, and reports the outlook as encouraging.

Mr. Thomas, of the Royal Victoria Life, is pushing hard for business, and is gratified to know that Mr. Burke, the Manager, is satisfied with the volume from Ontario.

I was sorry to find our friend, Managing-Director McCabe, absent, but, I had a pleasant chat with the energetic Secretary, Mr. Goldman, who is brimful of enthusiasm over this year's work, which will complete their period of 21 years. The North American contemplates having a gathering of agents in 1902 to commemorate the company's coming of age.

The Western fire reports business as more satisfactory this year than last. Manager Kenny was absent looking after the company's interests in the United States.

That capable and painstaking underwriter, Mr. Sims, of the British America, feels sure that 1901 is the turning point in the business. All join in hoping such will prove to be the case.