

Expenses.

The expenses of management, including Commission, work out at £3,476,848, against a previous £2,803,250, and represent 35.13 per cent. of the premiums as compared with 31.15 per cent. in the last issue, 30.79 in the year before, and 31.25 in 1906. An upward tendency is here disclosed, suggesting—as has been previously remarked—that when claim payments increases, working expenses are apt to increase also.

Funds.

The funds which are shown in the abstract are now in almost every case where companies carry on other business, the departmental funds appertaining to the Casualty branch—a further separation having in many instances become necessary owing to the altered form in which the accounts have been prepared. These funds amount to £8,057,659, or some £46,000 in advance of those shown last time. Had they, however, been computed upon exactly the same basis as before, a very much larger increase would have been apparent. The paid-up capital amounts to £12,537,389. In addition, a large number of offices have a subscribed capital of many times the amount of the capital paid-up, together with imposing funds relating to other departments, and extensive general reserves. The security offered to policyholders is, therefore abundant.

LAW GUARANTEE, TRUST AND ACCIDENT SOCIETY, LIMITED.

A sensation was caused by the announcement of the winding-up of this well-known Society which was established in 1888.

The enormous interests involved marked the event as one of the first importance in the insurance world. It is, however, satisfactory to learn that the disaster was not brought about by any unfortunate experience in the older and more generally recognized branches of insurance, but was entirely attributable to the guaranteeing of mortgages and debentures.

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY AND WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

There are several laws under which Workmen may claim damages: (1) Common Law; (2) Lord Campbell's Act, 1846; (3) Employers' Liability Act of 1880; (4) Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906. The Compensation payable under (1) is, apparently, any sum the jury fixes. Under (2) and (3) the Compensation is limited to an amount equivalent to the estimated earnings during the preceding three years of a man in the same grade and in the same district. Under (4) which makes employers of all classes of servants and workpeople, without regard to age or sex, liable to pay compensation for personal injury by any accident arising out of and in the course of their employment, the Compensation in the case of death is the wages for three years minimum £150; maximum, £300. For permanent total disablement, half wages permanently, not to exceed £1 a week. This capitalized, may be equal to £1,000. For Temporary Disablement, half wages. The first week is excluded if disablement continues for less than two weeks.

From Western Fields.

Seeding Now General.

Seeding is very general over the three prairie provinces six weeks earlier than the oldest inhabitant has known. Many American farmers are utilizing great traction engines, drawing 12 plows, to break the virgin sod.

So great is the influx of Americans that the traffic at Portal Gateway was in a tangle which stopped trains on Monday. The rush from the United States is unprecedented.

Insurance Commission's Hearing at Nelson Nearing its Close.

The issue between the fire underwriters and the insurers was joined at the two sittings of the insurance commission at Nelson last week. The Nelson board of trade lined up with the opponents of the draft bill proposed by the underwriters, on the ground that the legislation would strengthen an existing monopoly. The board's case was presented by F. A. Starkey, and Mayor Selous gave reasons why in his opinion the fire insurance rates charged in Nelson were excessive.

Mr. Giles submitted the case for the underwriters, and Mr. Anstie supplemented the case for the lumbermen.

Prairie Fires.

A prairie fire passed through the south portion of Waterous, Sask., on the 8th inst., and homesteaders for several miles are coming into town with reports of the loss of either their grain or their small belongings. Owing to the high northwest wind yesterday the flames licked up everything from a bush to a barn on its journey eastward.

The Royal Northwest Mounted police officers are expected here by the incoming train to take up the matter of investigation. It is reported that the fire started from a homestead where a fireguard was being burned.

Regina Wants Carnegie Library.

Regina public library board has made formal request for \$75,000 to Andrew Carnegie for the purpose of a library and guarantee \$7,500 a year on maintenance.

Hudson Bay Lands Open for Entry.

Homesteads are now open for entry in the Fort Churchill townsite and vicinity on Hudson Bay.

A. F. Crowe, assistant Dominion Land agent made the above statement. He added "The Winnipeg land district now includes the surveyed lands in the Fort Churchill townsite and vicinity on Hudson Bay and the department has authorized the Winnipeg land office to accept applications for entry from squatters or other persons whose right of entry has been recognized by the head office. This, of course, only relates to lands that have been surveyed.

"The whole tract in question remains under reservation as to minerals, but no mineral locations will be accepted therein at present.

Canada Cement Company to Start Portland Company in the West.

Present indications are that the Canada Cement Company will start a Portland Cement factory in