

ATLAS ASSURANCE CO., LIMITED.

Directed by skill and foresight and by matured judgment, the Atlas Assurance Company, Limited, of London, England, proceeds, year by year steadily upon its course. No attempt at large increases in new business is made, the energies of its managers being left free for the continued building-up of the Company from its strong position to one which shall be yet stronger. Persistently year by year, substantial additions are made to the funds, and a policy of cautious progress is followed. Under these circumstances the Atlas is being placed in such a position that it can regard the most serious conflagrations with comparative equanimity and calmly meet losses which would hopelessly cripple or wipe out altogether the resources of a weak office.

A FAVORABLE EXPERIENCE.

Happily last year, the Atlas was not put to any such stern tests. On the contrary, it enjoyed in its fire department a very satisfactory experience, even better than the experience of 1912, which was also a favorable year. Net premiums were \$5,621,480, about \$200,000 more than in 1912, and losses (with contributions to fire brigades, which were \$28,315), to \$2,655,745, actually nearly \$160,000 less in amount than the losses of 1912, and giving the very moderate return of losses to premiums of 47.2 per cent., as against 50.6 per cent. in 1912. Management expenses, commission, and foreign state and municipal taxes necessitated an outlay of \$2,077,540.

The net result of the year's business of the fire department, after adding \$83,710 to the reserve for unexpired risks which is maintained at 40 per cent. of premium income, is to leave a profit of \$804,485, about \$170,000 more than in 1912. This is utilised on highly-conservative lines, \$411,530 being transferred to the Fire Fund, which is thus raised to \$6,264,005, or a proportion to the net premium income of practically 112 per cent.

FUNDS OF THE COMPANY.

In Canada, the Atlas Assurance Company carries on an extensive fire business, it having been for many years under the management of Mr. Matthew C. Hinshaw, of Montreal, one of the oldest and best known fire underwriters in the Dominion. Last year the Atlas received net cash for premiums in Canada, \$541,479 and incurred net losses of \$269,984, giving the favorable ratio of losses incurred to premiums received of 49.86 per cent. Elsewhere than in Canada, the Atlas carries on a considerable business in various branches of insurance other than fire. This will be seen from the following statement of its funds as at December 31, 1913:—

Fire fund.....	\$ 6,264,005
Life fund.....	11,403,405
Employers' liability, accident and general insurance funds.....	263,045
Sinking fund and Capital Redemption fund.....	519,025
Contingency fund.....	108,185
Investment Reserve funds.....	301,855

Additionally to these substantial funds policyholders have the security of paid-up and uncalled capital, so that the total security to policyholders is nearly \$30,000,000.

UNSAFE RESORT HOTELS.

Forty-seven resort hotels in Canada and the United States burned in the first four months of 1914 with a property loss of nearly \$3,500,000, according to compilations of *Safety Engineering*. Seventy per cent. of the fires occurred at night.

Do not these facts and figures suggest, says our contemporary, that the question of safety should be considered just as much as the usual questions, Where is the hotel located? Is the "view" attractive? What are the sports, the recreations? What is the cuisine? Has the hotel indoor attractions? Are the guest-chambers comfortable?

Questions the average person does not think of asking are:

Has everything been done to prevent a fire?

Can a fire be detected readily?

If a hotel has watchmen, who are required to record trips by approved registering clocks, or is equipped with an automatic fire alarm system, one may feel secure to a degree not possible where there is not an effort made to anticipate fires.

What is the method of alarming guests in case of fire?

How may guests escape quickly and in safety?

Is there sufficient apparatus with which to fight a fire?

Are employees of the house organized to act effectively in cases of emergency in directing the safe exit of guests and in the use of fire apparatus?

Is the hotel provided with a system, either private or public, for fighting fires outside the building?

Is the hotel really fire resistive both in design and construction, not merely a building with incombustible walls and floors, and filled with combustible materials?

If the hotel is not built of materials to resist fire, and contains combustible materials is it equipped with automatic sprinklers? Automatic sprinkler protection eliminates generally all dangerous fire conditions in firetrap and near-firetrap resort hotels.

Is the design and construction of the house such that a fire will be confined to the locality of origin and not spread unrestrained throughout an entire story because of lack of fire walls, partitions and fire doors, or from floor to floor because the elevators and stairways are not enclosed by fireproof materials and the openings in the enclosures covered with fire doors?

If the patrons of resort hotels begin to ask these questions, adds *Safety Engineering*, you may be sure that resort hotel owners will be forced to answer them affirmatively, which will mean that there will be some hustling to make improvements—even before the summer season of 1914.

Less than one-half of the amount of money lost in resort hotel fires in four months in 1914 would be sufficient to alter and equip to resist fire all the existing resort hotels in the United States and Canada!

Mr. J. H. Mulvehill, assistant secretary Globe & Rutgers Fire Insurance Company, New York, spent a few days in Montreal last week visiting the Head Office for Canada.