the past ten. Returns under surrendered policies show the highest percentage for the ten years, indicating that the proportion of young policies surrendered or lapsed is still decreasing.

According to The Spectator tabulation the gains of the year were once more led by excess interest earnings of over $34,600,000, some four millions more than in 1907; the savings from mortality came next with $30,000,00, while the savings in the loadings of $17,570,000 brought that item to third place and $9,900,000 was released to earnings by surrendered and lapsed policies. The total insurance savings effected sum up $91,884,126, or nearly six millions more than in the preceding year. The great loss by changes in market values in 1907 was not entirely recovered last year, but the appreciation from that source amounted to $78,964,786, so that the apparent surplus earnings of the year aggregated $170,848,912.

A large increase in dividends to policyholders actually distributed is shown by the figures for 1908, no less than $53,430,395 being reported under that head. Special funds applied for policyholders' benefit increased $70,231.09, while dividends to stockholders amounted to $1,331,435. The total distribution for the year therefore reached $124,992,849, leaving $45,856,063 to be added to the divisible surplus in hand at the close of the year.

Industrial companies appear to have had a very favourable year, their figures showing a decrease in expenses, a gain in interest earnings and a decidedly more favourable mortality experience. They also shared in improved general financial conditions. Their apparent surplus earnings for the year were $34,325,762, of which $21,106,763 was distributed and $13,218,999 added to the divisible surplus.

The comparative analysis of the gain and loss exhibits of individual companies, as given by The Spectator, furnishes much valuable information. In some instances company managers will have vividly brought to their notice the fact that their own offices are not producing as favourable results as might be. The one danger in such an exhibit is that unfair use may be made of it in field competition. Any comparative use of ratios that does not take into consideration the varying practices of individual companies, may work some injustice. For instance, one leading Canadian company which is included in The Spectator tabulation, shows an apparently high ratio of insurance expenses to loading. But this explanation is to be noted, viz., that its stronger reserves leave the loading margin in its premiums smaller than in those of most other companies upon the list. Hence, the apparently high expense ratio.

THE ROYAL BANK is to have a handsome new building at Cobalt.

ALL CANADA FIRE INSURANCE FEDERATION.

An important step towards conserving legitimate fire insurance interests has been taken in the forming of the All Canada Fire Insurance Federation. It seeks broader co-operation than has been possible through existing organizations. In its constitution it knows neither "tariff" nor "non-tariff;" any fire insurance company licensed by the Dominion Government or having a provincial charter may enter the Federation membership, upon making application and signing the constitution.

The clearly declared objects of the Federation certainly show no "monopolistic" tendency. They are:

(*a*) To watch all legislation relating to fire insurance.

(*b*) To use every legitimate effort to prevent the enactment of laws inimical to fire insurance interests or detracting from the security the insuring public has a right to demand.

(*c*) To keep all persons interested in the business of fire insurance advised as to the effect of any fire insurance measures proposed and to promote just insurance legislation, and

(*d*) Generally to conserve fire insurance interests in Canada.

The general management of the affairs of the Federation are to be in the hands of a committee consisting of 35 representatives of companies members of the Federation, elected at the organization meeting and at each annual meeting of the Federation thereafter. The Provinces will be represented as follows:—Ontario 7, Quebec 7, Nova Scotia 3, New Brunswick 3, Prince Edward Island 3, Manitoba 3, Saskatchewan 3, Alberta 3, and British Columbia 3. Ten will form a quorum.

There is an Executive Committee of fourteen, five to form a quorum, appointed by the General Committee consisting of:—Liverpool & London & Globe, Royal, Phœnix of London, Insurance Company of North America, Acadia, Quebec, Stanstead & Sherbrooke, British America, London Mutual, Gore, Queen City, Waterloo, Norwich Union and Ætna. These will serve until their successors are appointed; such successors to be elected annually by the General Committee. Any vacancy by resignation or otherwise is to be filled by the Committee. The Executive Committee will have complete executive control of the affairs of the Federation with power and authority to employ counsel, engage clerks, levy assessments, appoint sub-committees (not necessarily from the members of the executive) and will possess such other powers and authority as may be necessary to carry on the work of the Federation successfully.

Assessments are to be levied on each member in proportion to its premium income in Canada, as shown in the last preceding government returns, and each member on joining the Federation signs