FIRE INSURANCE BUSINESS IN CANADA FOR THE YEAR 1915—*Continued*

COMPANIES.	Per cent. of Losses incurred to Premiums.						Business of 1914		Business of 1915		
	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	Net Cash received for Premiums	Net Losses Incurred	Net Cash rec'd for Premiums	Net Losses Incurred	P.C. Losses incurred to Premiums
BRITISH—	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	p.c.	$	$	$	$	p.c.
Alliance	31.7	45.80	55.85	47.67	39.13	63.53	213,203	135,454	215,168	92,450	42.97
Atlas	46.0	63.34	67.14	56.27	54.01	65.40	526,216	344,142	515,974	300,507	58.24
Caledonian	41.6	58.90	51.98	49.39	56.59	62.03	442,976	274,789	433,157	227,887	52.61
Commercial Union	46.1	55.65	53.97	51.18	46.66	45.56	1,000,069	455,690	962,785	472,810	49.11
Employers' Liability	....	....	31.33	31.88	45.13	59.49	308,402	183,460	356,567	140,581	39.43
General	37.6	66.51	77.12	46.09	58.75	46.32	267,203	123,783	289,962	123,514	42.60
Guardian	52.7	57.76	63.88	61.74	63.83	59.33	958,195	568,539	970,601	464,488	47.86
Law Union & Rock	44.5	53.57	51.74	52.04	52.49	59.28	282,305	167,354	259,011	152,363	58.83
Liverpool & L. & G.	56.3	59.64	53.70	57.78	56.75	67.94	1,383,305	939,865	1,342,437	649,982	48.42
London & Lancashire	47.6	54.36	64.21	40.71	45.88	58.34	691,561	403,460	703,503	337,018	47.91
London Assurance	27.9	40.43	35.75	42.59	47.08	45.97	310,412	142,694	300,984	128,412	42.66
Marine	....	....	....	....	....	....	None	None	None	None	....
North British	54.5	62.67	57.80	48.63	59.23	67.03	943,907	632,746	927,240	469,348	50.62
Northern	50.2	52.93	47.49	48.86	51.34	68.04	736,047	500,856	770,010	402,790	52.31
Norwich Union	44.2	54.96	47.23	54.50	57.05	62.45	770,642	481,309	743,557	396,598	53.34
Palatine	....	....	....	6.67	48.52	62.88	239,666	150,712	251,107	113,738	45.29
Phœnix	54.6	62.20	44.66	52.45	55.01	55.55	1,035,778	575,354	935,794	390,705	41.75
Provincial	....	....	9.13	10.08	75.42	111.41	45,591	50,793	40,473	8,567	21.19
Royal	52.5	56.41	53.37	57.35	59.44	51.00	1,450,549	739,830	1,429,655	702,985	49.17
Royal Exchange	....	2.35	40.23	39.71	39.36	38.05	422,440	160,755	379,111	171,751	45.30
Scottish Union & National	40.0	42.85	48.83	38.86	50.64	45.92	350,475	160,950	372,392	151,717	40.74
Sun	58.0	51.71	60.18	54.07	59.60	55.27	484,222	267,658	483,707	281,254	58.14
Union	....	....	....	44.05	52.29	56.79	480,991	273,141	474,056	261,000	55.06
Yorkshire	51.4	61.64	51.11	46.38	70.09	65.20	366,752	239,120	360,769	207,017	57.38
British Dominions & Gen'l	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	96,456	63,625	65.96
London Guar. & Acc.	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	1,198	None	....
Ocean Accident & Guar.	...	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	43,171	9,408	21.79
Totals and Averages	49.7	57.02	53.83	50.95	54.78	58.15	13,710,907	7,972,454	13,658,845	6,720,515	49.20

Twenty-one Years' Premiums Received and Losses Incurred by Fire Companies with Dominion Licenses

(Compiled by The Chronicle.)

Years.	Premiums Received.	Losses Incurred.	Percentage.	Years.	Premiums Received.	Losses Incurred.	Percentage.
1895	$ 6,943,382	$ 4,812,764	69.31	1906	$14,687,963	$ 6,863,829	46.73
1896	7,075,850	4,338,506	61.31	1907	16,122,922	8,742,994	54.23
1897	7,157,661	4,609,997	64.41	1908	17,572,113	10,347,567	58.88
1898	7,350,131	5,395,898	74.37	1909	17,049,464	8,604,477	50.47
1899	7,910,492	4,552,161	57.75	1910	18,725,531	10,931,918	58.38
1900	8,331,948	8,078,931	97.00	1911	20,575,255	10,810,929	52.54
1901	9,650,348	6,783,617	70.29	1912	23,194,518	11,855,704	51.11
1902	10,577,084	4,288,562	40.54	1913	25,745,947	14,601,148	56.71
1903	11,384,762	5,799,279	50.94	1914	27,499,158	15,899,218	57.82
1904	13,169,882	14,191,847	107.76	1915	26,530,293	13,667,458	51.52
1905	14,285,671	6,185,612	43.30				

WATCHING SMALL LOSSES.

A recent case in the New York Courts, to which a partial reference has previously been made in THE CHRONICLE, while unimportant in itself, is of decided interest in its suggestion of the need of watchfulness in regard to the multitude of the fire companies' small losses. The circumstances of the case, as reported by the Weekly Underwriter, were that in a fire occurring in a five-room flat in New York City, the adjuster requested the plaintiff to separate the damaged from the undamaged goods and preserve the former until the inventory could be completed. The inventory placed the damage at $532 for 52 items, but when the adjuster called but 16 items were visible, the others having been thrown away by the owner. The company refused to pay under these conditions and the plaintiff sued, and has now been beaten, the court holding that the clauses of the standard policy which required that the damaged property must be kept intact until the adjuster could properly examine it, were violated by the plaintiff. "Moreover," the court said, "there is no requirement that the insurance company shall notify the policyholder to preserve damaged property. This is one of the provisions of the policy to be observed by the insured, and is a material part of the contract to be kept by him."

The companies generally take a generous line in the settlement of small claims. Presumably, generosity is considered good policy. But it may very well be doubted if any adequate return is ever secured commensurate with the aggregate of over-liberal settlements, and their tendency is also to make policyholders careless, negligent, and regardful of the fire companies as somewhat "easy marks." Greater care in the settlement of the hundreds of small losses which are made the basis for claims upon the companies during the year would probably result in the aggregate in the saving of thousands of dollars to the companies, without the doing of any injustice to their policyholders.