



INSURANCE SOCIETY

"Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labour and to wait."

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OFFICE: 102 St. Francois Xavier St. }

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The Office of

"INSURANCE SOCIETY"

IS IN THE

EXCHANGE BANK CHAMBERS,

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Companies are always wanting reliable agents.

Agents are ever wishing to better their condition.

INSURANCE SOCIETY will always be happy to assist in negotiations—without charge ;—if

Companies will communicate with us respecting their wants.

Agents state to us what they want, where they want it, and their qualifications.

REAL ESTATE DEPARTMENT.

We purpose enlarging the scope and increasing the usefulness of this Journal by giving attention to Real Estate matters throughout the Dominion.

To this end we propose to lay before our readers special plans in each issue, showing value of real estate in the various cities and towns in Canada.

To make definite arrangements will require a few months' active work, and suggestions from friends interested in such matters will be gratefully received and acted upon, when practicable.

There is a want felt for news and records of Real Estate matters, which we purpose to supply; and, with the system of insurance plans, city atlases, and the surveying department that is connected with this Journal, it has the most adequate facilities for supplying information on Real Estate matters.

The annual meeting of the Citizens Insurance Company taking place on the 19th inst. just as we go to press—we delay our remarks on the nature of the Life and Accident Branches which it was proposed to present in continuation of that of the Fire Branch in our January number—so as to include the returns for the business of the past year.

In January we made a request to the managers of Fire Insurance Companies to favor us with figures for the business of 1882, stating that:

"This is not merely a matter of journalistic enterprise or simply through curiosity; but as the year 1882 is generally considered to have been an unfavorable one for Insurance Companies it would be well for you all to know the exact state of affairs at once, so as to take united action as soon as possible."

We asked for figures showing:

1. Net amount of Premiums (less re-insurances) received during 1882 in the Dominion.
2. Amount of Losses incurred during 1882.

And stated that this information is only to be published if all offices supply their share; if not so published fly-sheets will be issued with all the information obtained, and distributed only to those who favor us with a reply.

Many Companies responded at once, but several were unable to at once reply, as their various branches had not sent in returns, and as March 1st is the date by which Government returns have to be made several are taking the utmost limit allowed.

Of the 28 Companies reporting to the Dominion Government 19 have favored us with their figures, and 5 expect to have their full returns ready within a few days.

It is but fair to await the promised figures, which are delayed only by the dilatoriness of far-away agencies; but in a week or ten days we will carry out our promise in so far as the fly-sheets are concerned, and trust that *all* will give reciprocal information.

From the returns of the 19 Companies who have already replied, it is evident that 1882 will not be so bad a year as feared. The average ratio of losses to premiums being 0.63, or with expenses (taken at 30 per cent) 0.93.

This is far from profitable, and when 0.10 is allowed, as it should be, for a *Rest*, to prepare for conflagration years, the balance is on the wrong side of the ledger by 0.03 per cent.

Yet "it might have been worse" will be the general verdict, and a mutual resolution to mend matters will tend to better matters in 1883.

Each of the 19 Companies (excepting one) show a gain in premiums over those of 1882, and as the gains of these 19 amount to \$501,646 on a premium income of \$2,155,773 in 1881, or about 24 per cent., it is but fair to infer that, as a whole, the increase has been more than in any year since 1874.

Whether this has been from the increased prosperity of the country, from stiffening of rates, or from cultivation of new business by new comers, each can decide for himself.