

Fire Underwriters' Association. Other officers elected were: Mr. Alfred Wright, of Toronto, manager of the Canadian branch of the London & Lancashire Fire Insurance Co., was elected Western vice-president, and Mr. Matthew Hinshaw, Montreal, manager for Canada of the Atlas Assurance Co., was elected Eastern vice-president.

The question of advancing rates was discussed, but no definite course was decided upon, the matter being left to the committee appointed to deal with this question, but judging from the general expression of opinion some increases in certain localities are likely to be made at no distant date. There are numerous towns and villages, where, in spite of warnings and examples of the disastrous consequences of neglect, the fire protection is most imperfect. The inhabitants of such unprotected places need rousing from their apathy and indifference, which can be done partially by raising the rates of fire insurance so as to establish conditions

more equitable to the underwriting companies. The case of Ottawa was considered, but no action taken. The report on last year's business was unusually favourable, but the satisfaction created by this was discounted by the record of current year being discouraging, more especially the heavy losses in May last. Sanguine anticipations are indulged in as to the fire business prospects of Manitoba and the Northwest. The members enjoyed the customary social functions associated with annual meetings which relieve the strain imposed by serious deliberations and tend to the development of mutual good feeling and confidence.

A visit was paid to the King Edward VII. Hotel, Toronto, which, having been inspected was pronounced to be admirably constructed from an underwriter's point of view being a good specimen of a fire-proof building.

THE EXPANSION OF "ORDINARY" BUSINESS OF BRITISH LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN TWENTY YEARS.

From "The Review," London.

Year.	Life premiums.	Consideration for annuities.	Life and annuity funds.	Insurances in force.			
				Number of Policies.	Number of Annuities.	Amount of Policies.	Value of Annuities in force.
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1880-1	11,658,319	590,911	123,675,355	....	....	....	....
1881-2	11,898,134	696,221	127,700,923	....	....	....	....
1882-3	12,136,838	610,137	131,922,246	....	....	....	....
1883-4	12,307,152	636,510	135,604,632	....	....	....	....
1884-5	12,555,797	644,274	139,546,012	....	....	....	....
1885-6	12,846,925	601,187	142,751,707	....	....	....	....
1886-7	13,033,945	703,993	146,096,691	905,068	19,837	442,653,003	801,974
1887-8	13,586,325	812,660	149,915,277	944,049	20,158	459,454,534	831,012
1888-9	13,928,001	1,107,787	154,942,559	963,522	21,008	464,859,018	876,651
1889-0	14,213,386	1,275,665	160,485,372	967,105	21,133	466,248,130	890,408
1890-1	14,833,359	1,184,705	165,920,161	995,781	23,260	478,972,075	1,023,009
1891-2	14,565,861	1,096,870	170,499,520	1,196,945	23,325	504,947,423	1,056,658
1892-3	16,573,686	1,359,476	176,372,186	1,235,519	25,954	516,659,229	1,113,538
1893-4	16,862,514	1,415,769	183,009,704	1,291,143	26,505	526,428,434	1,150,605
1894-5	17,637,683	1,742,387	190,918,237	1,428,137	28,030	557,108,014	1,223,738
1895-6	18,657,348	2,365,466	199,334,074	1,494,000	32,643	581,552,597	1,494,676
1896-7	19,604,748	2,330,38	209,221,502	1,543,026	33,351	594,175,305	1,559,556
1897-8	20,199,386	1,985,892	219,835,806	1,698,043	37,191	619,755,996	1,680,538
1898-9	20,829,017	2,356,812	228,874,161	1,759,606	36,959	633,925,993	1,801,666
1899-0	21,259,186	2,139,014	238,196,831	1,848,698	41,443	651,215,975	1,878,249
1900-1	21,795,699	1,716,027	246,129,803	1,964,858	45,645	675,960,290	1,095,259