

**GUARDIAN ASSURANCE COMPANY, LTD.**

The Guardian appears to have shared in the general prosperity of 1905, from a fire insurance point of view.

The fire premiums after deducting re-insurances amounted to \$2,509,356 and the losses to \$1,236,816 being 49.29 p.c. of the premiums.

The expenses and commissions together amounted to \$893,900 being 35.62 p.c. of the premiums.

After providing for losses, expenses, bad debts, income tax on profits, and for the additional premium reserve required by the increase in premiums during the year, there was a profit on the trading account of \$327,026. The interest on the reserve funds amounts to \$129,203, which, added to profit on trading account makes a total of \$456,319. Out of this sum the directors have increased the general reserve fund by \$198,562, leaving a balance of \$257,757 to be transferred to profit and loss account.

The premium reserve fund now amounts to \$1,110,750, and the general reserve fund to \$2,300,000, making the total fund in this department \$3,410,750, all of which is available for paying fire claims in addition to the current income.

The company owns assets to extent of \$26,685,586.

Some years ago the directors decided to withdraw from business in the United States, and so the company is not involved in the San Francisco conflagration.

The management of the Guardian in recognizing the supreme safety of providing for every contingency shows commendable foresight and wisdom.

The Canadian branch is one of the most important of the company's offices, and the business throughout the Dominion is controlled in an honourable and skilful manner by Mr. H. M. Lambert, manager for Canada.

Arrangements are now completed for the absorption of the Westminster and General Life Assurance Company. The funds of the Guardian will be increased thereby to over \$30,000,000.

**A HALF-YEAR'S FIRE LOSS.**

The fire loss of the United States and Canada during the month of June, as compiled from the carefully kept records of the New York "Commercial Bulletin," shows a total of \$13,950,650. The aggregate for the first half of the year 1906 is \$367,665,550. The following table shows the losses by months for the first half of 1906 and a comparison with the losses for the same period in 1904 and 1905:

	1906.	1905.	1904.
January.....	\$17,723,800	\$16,378,100	\$21,790,200
February.....	18,219,350	23,591,000	99,051,000
March.....	18,727,750	14,715,400	11,212,150
April.....	292,501,150	11,901,350	23,623,000
May.....	16,512,850	12,336,250	15,221,400
June.....	13,950,650	11,789,800	10,646,700
Total 6 mos.....	\$367,665,550	\$93,111,900	\$172,534,450
July.....		13,173,250	11,923,200
August.....		11,435,600	9,715,200
September.....		13,715,250	14,387,650
October.....		12,267,000	12,866,200
November.....		16,178,200	11,515,000
December.....		15,276,600	19,422,350
Total 12 mos.....		\$175,157,800	\$252,364,050

During the month of June there were 263 fires of a destructiveness, each of \$10,000, or more, classified as follows:

\$10,000 to \$20,000.....	108
20,000 to 30,000.....	40
30,000 to 50,000.....	34
50,000 to 75,000.....	37
75,000 to 100,000.....	12
100,000 to 200,000.....	10
200,000 to 549,000.....	13
Total.....	263

The large fires during the month under review were the following:

South Boston, Va., various.....	\$275,000
Omaha, Neb., department store.....	325,000
Tompkinsville, S. I., fiber storehouse.....	365,000
New York city, piano factory and other.....	300,000
Baltimore, Md., wharf sheds & steamer.....	350,000
St. Paul, Minn., clothing store and other.....	540,000
Pollock, La., saw mill, lumber and other.....	300,000
Nicolett, Que., church and convent.....	465,000
Hartford, Conn., tobacco warehouse.....	210,000
Chicago, Ill., grain elevator.....	350,000
Youngstown, O., macaroni factory and other.....	250,000

The conflagration at San Francisco is, of course, responsible for the extremely discouraging figures presented for the half-year. Apart from the loss there, 1906 might be considered normal from a fire loss standpoint.

**PARLIAMENT PROROGUED.**

The second session of the 10th Parliament of Canada closed on 13th inst., the usual ceremonial being observed.

The speech from the throne referred to the invitation to the King to visit Canada, to the growth in our foreign trade, to the prosperity prevailing all over Canada, to the stream of immigrants flowing into the Northwest. The Acts passed "of great utility" last session, said the Governor-General, were:

An Act for the better observance of the Lord's Day.

An Act in restriction of usury.

An Act to secure the better marking of fruit.

An Act requiring that certain articles containing a proportion of gold and silver when offered for sale should be honestly marked.

An Act relating to immigrants and immigration, which, among other provisions, will enable the authorities to deport undesirable persons.

A session will be held next November when it is expected that a revised tariff will be presented.