

## CASUALTY GUARANTEE AND MISCELLANEOUS UNDERWRITING IN 1909.

### Steady Progress a Feature of Canadian Business in all Branches.

The abstract tables on another page of the results in Canada during 1909 of five branches of insurance business, other than life, fire and marine, show to what importance branches of insurance business, which, not so very long ago, were lumped together under the comprehensive and uninforming heading of miscellaneous have now attained. In practically every branch of this "miscellaneous" business the year 1909 in Canada was one of steady and consistent progress and several branches notably accident insurance and employers' liability insurance are rapidly attaining an important position. As in 1908, the premiums received in 1909 on account of employers' liability contracts are upwards of two thirds of those received on account of personal accident contracts and combined together the premiums of these two branches are well on towards the three million dollar mark.

#### Accident Insurance.

The steady growth of the Accident business will be readily seen by a perusal of the premium figures for the last four years. They are as follows:—

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1906 ... .. | \$1,173,031 |
| 1907 ... .. | 1,382,077   |
| 1908 ... .. | 1,408,013   |
| 1909 ... .. | 1,642,247   |

Thus, the bad times at the close of 1907 and the beginning of 1908 did not put any check upon the activities of the companies, and the diminutive, if at that time gratifying increase of \$25,936 dollars made in 1908, has been followed in 1909 by the substantial advance of \$234,234. At the end of 1908, the amount of policies new and renewed was about 246 millions, an advance of only two millions upon 1907; at the end of 1909, the amount had been raised to about \$267,000,000. The net amount in force at the end of 1908 was about \$194,000,000; it was at the end of 1909 nearly \$219,000,000.

Claims paid during 1909 were \$527,369, comparing with \$442,727 in 1908. There is again a gratifying improvement in ratio of losses incurred to premiums received. In 1909 the ratio was brought down to 30.9 per cent., comparing with 35.2 per cent. in 1908, 38.6 per cent. in 1907, and 42.5 per cent. in 1906.

#### Employers' Liability.

Employers' liability for Workmen's Compensation is a subject to which legislators of recent years have been very fond of giving attention—in more than one country—and in consequence, this department is constantly presenting new problems to underwriters. Since the new Quebec law came into force there has been a general rise in rates, and in perforce taking this step Canadian underwriters have but followed the example of their British brethren.

The substantial progress made by employers' liability insurance in Canada during the last four years is evidenced by the following table of premiums:—

|            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| 1906... .. | \$660,838 |
| 1907... .. | 908,908   |
| 1908... .. | 1,000,885 |
| 1909... .. | 1,178,243 |

The passing of the million dollar mark in 1908 has been followed by another great step forward on the part of the companies doing this business and here again it is very noticeable that business in the department was not apparently affected by the recession in trade which followed the autumn crisis of 1907 in New York. That such figures as those given above should be shown is striking evidence of the increasing favour with which this branch of insurance is meeting. During 1909 policies new and renewed amounted to approximately \$64,500,000, comparing with 1908, \$50,061,650; 1907, \$42,131,375 and 1906, \$35,507,250. Claims paid were \$570,216 comparing with \$408,321 in 1908 and \$467,327 in 1907. The ratio of losses incurred to premiums received was a trifle over 50 per cent., again a gratifying reaction from 1908, when the ratio was 55.3 per cent., and 1907, when it was 51.6 per cent.

#### Sickness Insurance.

This branch continues to show steady progress. In 1909 premiums totalled \$547,442 as against \$533,327 in 1908 and \$520,587 in 1907. Premium advances are confined almost entirely to the companies engaged in this department, and with sickness insurance more and more featured by regular casualty companies, the volume of this branch of insurance is likely steadily to increase.

#### Guarantee Insurance.

Possibly the most gratifying feature about 1909 in this section is that losses have dropped from \$122,918 to \$88,228, though premiums have advanced from \$268,607 to \$280,354. The amount of policies new and renewed last year, was \$84,206,922 comparing with \$77,754,957 written in 1908, \$72,612,309 written in 1907 and \$60,433,006 written in 1906. These are substantial gains and suggest that this comparatively new branch of underwriting is destined to play an increasingly important part in the business and financial activities of the Dominion as is, indeed, only to be expected since the superiority of the system of surety by means of an insurance policy over the system of personal surety is sufficiently obvious to indicate the gradual if slow making way of the latter for the former.

#### "Miscellaneous."

Among the minor activities of insurance companies in Canada, live stock insurance appears to be making particularly rapid strides. In 1908 the amount of premiums was \$5,041 only, and the amount of policies new and renewed \$272,080. In 1909 these figures were improved to \$47,485 for premiums and \$1,142,754 for amount of policies new and renewed. Losses incurred during 1909 were \$24,201 compared with \$2,525 in 1908, and claims paid were \$20,876 compared with \$975.

Steam boiler insurance also marked a considerable advance in 1909. Premiums were \$99,158 compared with \$87,613 in 1908 and amount of policies new and renewed, \$12,645,700 compared with