in the corresponding periods of 1902 and 1903, and $143,000,000 and $149,000,000 in ten months, 1905 and 1906 (allowing for the San Francisco conflagration), to $180,765,300 for the ten months of this year.

The following table affords a comparison by months of the losses this year with those of 1905 and 1906:

	1905.	1906.	1907.
January	$16,378,100	$17,723,800	$24,064,000
February	25,591,000	18,240,350	19,876,600
March	14,751,400	18,727,750	20,559,700
April	11,901,350	292,501,150	21,925,900
May	12,736,250	16,512,850	16,286,300
June	11,789,800	13,950,650	14,765,000
July	13,175,250	12,428,050	18,240,150
August	11,435,600	9,641,600	20,248,000
September	13,715,250	10,852,550	11,449,400
October	12,267,000	13,872,450	13,350,250
Total 10 months	$143,741,000	$424,400,200	$180,765,300

Two hundred millions a year seems to be the toll the Fire Fiend exacts from the careless property-owners of this continent. Sometimes, as in 1904, it is run up to $250,000,000 and in 1906 to $424,000,000 by conflagrations. In which case, terrified, we make haste to be prudent—only, later, to be careless again.

LIFE AND ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

The Dominion of Canada Guarantee & Accident Insurance Company has placed a branch office in Calgary in the Cameron block. The branch is in charge of Harry W. Falconer.

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We understand that Mr. Cox, the vice-president of the National Association of Life Underwriters, is to attend the meeting of the Buffalo Association, postponed till December.

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The Canadian industrial business of the Metropolitan Life is keeping up well. Several Canadian districts are well in front as to the ordinary average issue per month per man. Mr. Monast, in Three Rivers; Mr. Fahey, in Vancouver; Mr. Bratton, in Victoria. And under the supervision of Mr. R. B. Ellis, the Westmount-Montreal district is forging rapidly ahead.

* * * *

The president, vice-president, and secretary of the Sun Life Assurance Company have issued a lengthy circular to its policyholders, denouncing the Armstrong law of New York State. It also requests policyholders to express their disapproval of the draft insurance bill intended to be submitted at Ottawa, and their hope that Parliament will eliminate or carefully amend all clauses that would tend to lessen the security or diminish the profits of policyholders.

* * * *

A new feature in the report of the Ontario Inspector of Insurance is the statements of three weather insurance companies in the province. Their aggregate capital, in cash and in premium notes, is $127,507. They have 3,730 policies for $4,154,236 in force, an average of $1,114 per policy. The risks are three year risks. The first one formed was the Ontario Weather Insurance Mutual Company, at Grand Valley, in 1904; the next the Western Farmers, Woodstock, January, 1906; the latest the Huron, at Zurich, in May, 1906.

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Commenting on the financial turmoil of recent weeks in the United States, the doubt and distrust cast on banks and other financial institutions, the United States Investor says: "Holders of life insurance policies and prospective applicants ought to be glad and proud of the position which life insurance occupies to-day. Fortunately not many banks have failed, but some have done so, and all have been forced to gradually contract their operations. On the other hand, no life insurance company has closed its doors, none has repudiated any just claim, and all companies which were worthy of any confidence have fulfilled their obligations to the last letter."

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Will there be any life insurance legislation this session? The question is a natural one and has been answered very differently by those who do, or who do not, hope for such legislation. Some, who do not like the Commission's draft bill, declare that any new provisions based upon it can never pass. Others are of the opinion that some legislation will be brought in though it will not necessarily embody the Commission's recommendations. We have some reason for believing that a bill will be brought in framed very largely on the lines which the Insurance Commission advised. That it will, in such case, be opposed strenuously by the life insurance companies is extremely likely.

A feature of the present shortage of money for commercial and industrial uses is the unusual extent to which possessors of life assurance policies are borrowing money from the companies that issue them. Much of this kind of borrowing has been done. Withdrawals of money in savings bank accounts have also been considerable. There are cases in which borrowing on one's life policy is justifiable. But the propriety of so borrowing for speculative purposes by a married man, whose life assurance ought to be kept as a sacred investment for his wife and children, is not defensible. Some of the saddest cases in life assurance history in Canada, cases where home and comfort have been lost to widow and children, have arisen through borrowing on life policies for speculative investment.

WESTERN LIFE UNDERWRITERS MEET.

Saskatchewan Association Holds a Successful Gathering at Regina.

At Regina last week a banquet was held by the Life Underwriters' Association of Saskatchewan. Among those present were Mr. C. C. Knight, of the Sun Life, in the chair; Hon. J. A. Calder, Minister of Education; Mayor J. W. Smith; Messrs. E. B. Andros, Imperial Life; A. C. McGowan, Confederation Life; W. D. McBride, North American Life; S. J. McKee, Mutual Life of Canada; H. S. Cross, N. A. L.; J. Addison Reid, Manufacturers' Life; Fred. E. Parker, R. G. Jarvis, G. H. McNull, F. A. Garvin, W. A. Knight, James C. S. Pratt, M. W. Lovelace, Robert Morrison; G. H. Porteous (city); J. A. Fonister, Saskatoon, Sun Life; J. B. Blackstock, Saskatoon, London Life; Phil. Francombe, and J. H. H. Young, Canada Life; S. Chivers-Wilson, National Life; D. J. MacLeod, L.L.; John M. Shaw, S.L.; P. A. Winterwute, G. J. Robertson, M.L.; F. C. Sinclair, S.L.; J. G. Milloy, Mutual Life of Canada; J. W. Mobray, S. Splashett, J. W. Kirker, M.L.; W. S. Pickup, W. L. Dodd, Wm. Trant, Continental Life; F. J. Reynolds, Home Life; J. W. Nay, Great West; J. M. Wessel, Imperial Life.

Harmony in Life Insurance Circles.

Responding to the toast of the Life Association Movement, the chairman commented on the harmony among Canadian life men to-day and its contrast with former times. Twenty years ago, he said, insurance men were Ishmaelites indeed. Every man's hand was against every other man. The promoters of the movement realized that there must be an entirely new spirit in the ranks of underwriters. The ideal which the insurance man must recognize and strive each day to reach was the principle of the Golden Rule.

Another subject which came under the consideration of the recent convention was that trinity of evils, rebating, misrepresentation and twisting; but a better day was coming for the life business.

The Provincial Minister of Education said it was recognized the world over that life insurance was an essential factor of modern civilization because it was the duty of practically every man to see that those dependent on him should in the event of his death be well provided for. He hoped that the new law to cover the whole field of insurance would safeguard the interests of the policyholders and shareholders to the greatest extent. If the action of his government in putting a tax on insurance companies was not satisfactory, he believed the Government would be pleased to have representations on the subject at some early date.

Believes in Life Insurance.

Mayor Smith declared his belief in the principles of life assurance. He thought every young man in the country should invest a modest amount in life insurance. Other visitors spoke to various toasts. Mr. McBride proposed life assurance interests, Mr. McGowan and Mr. Young responding; Mr. S. R. Moore, editor of "The West," responded for the press, and Mr. J. Addison Reid made an earnest speech in reply to the toast of "The Ladies." The gathering was in every way satisfactory and encouraging.

AUTOMOBILE GARAGES.

In this country, not many automobile garages have been burned. In the United States it is different. The underwriters there have made a compilation of fires in garages, and a list of 20 to 30 instances of fire is the result. Here are some of the instances: A short circuit in the electrical apparatus of a gasoline car resulted in the destruction of five automobiles, the garage and surrounding houses and barns. A garage was destroyed as a result of an employee dropping a match into a pool of water caused by overflow from sewer and heavily coated with oil. Careless dropping of match ignited inflammables on floor and caused $15,000 loss. Employee struck a match to light lamps while tank was being filled. The explosion and subsequent fire ruined building and contents. A cigar stub laid on machine and forgotten caused bad fire. And carelessness with matches, smokers, open lamps, flooding carbureter explosions, etc., have caused great fires.