

however, foreign wines and other beverages, the former being sent from Spain and Germany, and the latter from Great Britain; the consumption of these foreign liquors being large in the principal cities of France.

PACIFIC COAST INSURANCE, 1900.

The fire insurance companies operating in the United States on the Pacific Coast, appear to have had more satisfactory results from their business last year than those realized in the middle and eastern parts of the continent. From an elaborate tabular statement issued by the "Coast Review," we have drawn out the following exhibit of the business on the Pacific Coast of those companies which are best known in Canada:—

Companies	Amount written. \$	Premiums received. \$	Losses incurred. \$	Ratio of Losses to Premiums.
American Co's.....	318,049,625	5,515,290	2,467,782	44.7
British Alliance.....	10,389,603	166,581	53,836	32.4
Atlas.....	11,865,093	196,781	69,327	35.2
British America.....	5,623,404	106,449	45,042	42.3
Com'l Union.....	7,064,933	114,340	49,720	43.5
Imperial.....	11,358,047	212,985	98,217	46.8
Lancashire.....	8,821,636	144,856	43,435	30.0
L'pool. & Lon. & Globe.....	21,496,849	331,691	208,740	62.9
Lond. & Lanc.....	20,091,179	310,101	111,038	35.8
North British & M.....	13,654,468	246,466	105,347	42.7
Northern.....	6,152,342	94,071	28,227	30.0
Norwich Union.....	9,805,480	179,725	76,123	42.4
Royal.....	20,889,762	351,184	139,774	39.7
Scot. U. & Nat'l.....	11,441,395	204,585	87,614	42.8
Sun.....	9,975,813	142,758	80,485	46.5
Union.....	7,249,803	113,123	54,383	48.1
Western.....	7,539,971	133,734	62,021	46.4
Total British.....	183,222,788	3,179,430	1,313,338	41.3
Other Co's.....	168,796,328	2,780,628	1,249,501	44.9
Total Foreign Co's...	352,019,116	5,960,058	2,562,839	43.0
Grand Total 1900.	670,068,741	11,475,348	5,030,621	43.9
" " 1899.	633,711,938	10,822,675	4,877,122	45.1
" " 1898.	690,943,222	11,566,696	5,978,880	51.7
" " 1897.	514,471,396	8,738,241	4,141,850	47.4

The above returns are remarkable as an exhibit of the extent of the fire business on the Pacific Coast which is done by English and Canadian companies. Out of a total of risks written in 1900, the British America secured \$5,623,404, and the Western, \$7,539,971. The total business of the 37 non-American companies operating on the Pacific Coast was \$352,019,116, compared with \$318,049,625 of the 59 American. The business last year for all the companies was profitable. Out of the 96 companies, only 6 had a fire loss exceeding 60 per cent. of premiums, the general average being 43.9 per cent. The good fortune in the west was some compensation for the bad luck prevalent in the east; which affords an impressive illustration of the desirability of a fire insurance company having its risks spread over a wide area, wherein such diverse conditions exist as to render it highly improbable that the business sky will be everywhere cloudy at the same time.

TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY.

The 37th annual statement of the Travelers Insurance Company, which appears in full on a later page, shows a further stage of expansion in extent of business and of strength. Last year we recorded the passing by the company of the one hundred million of dollars mark in its "Life insurance in force." This year the advance has been from \$100,334,554 to \$109,019,851, an increase of \$8,685,297, which, of itself, would make a respectable business for a growing company. The other gains for the year are, in assets an increase of \$3,167,820; their total amount being \$30,928,331. In reserves, both departments, which are calculated on a 3 1-2 per cent. basis, there was an increase last year of \$2,484,392. The total liabilities, including reserves, amount to \$26,385,204, which, being deducted from the total assets of \$30,928,331, leaves an excess security to policyholders of \$4,543,126. The Travelers, since 1864, has paid \$42,643,384 to its policyholders, the payments in 1900 making the large total of \$2,908,464. The loans to life policyholders are stated to be \$1,586,652. The whole statement is highly gratifying to all who are associated with this strong, progressive, and popular company, the local interests of which are ably furthered and watched over by Mr. Frank F. Parkins, chief agent at Montreal.

OTTAWA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Ottawa Fire Insurance Company's statement, which appears in this issue, is more favourable than could have been anticipated, considering how generally disastrous to fire underwriting was the past year. The Ottawa only commenced business on 21st November, 1899, just in time for the terrific conflagration at that city and Hull, by which losses were incurred amounting to \$26,205. Another bit of ill-luck was the fire at St. Claire about the same date, by which \$2,378 was lost. The company is not the first that began to experience in its first year that fire insurance business is not all profits. The company has a subscribed capital of \$500,000, for which the subscribers "are good for every dollar," said the president in his address at the annual meeting. Mr. Powell, the general manager, while anxious to secure business, appears to be fully alive to the necessity of exercising discrimination in accepting risks; the declared policy of the company being to write no more than it is amply able to carry with perfect safety to insurers. Mr. John Carson, well-known in insurance circles, supervises the interests of the company in Montreal and the Province of Quebec.

THE NEWEST, AS IT IS THE MOST REVOLTING of schemes is reported to have been organized in Chicago, the business of which is to secure dead bodies for the service of swindlers of life assurance companies. These scoundrels secure insurance on fictitious persons who soon die, and the body supply firm furnishes a corpse as proof of death. Civilization has horrors worse than barbarism.