

**LAWS AND LIFE INSURANCE.**

**United States Legislatures have Hundreds of Bills Affecting the Business before Them every Year—Work of Association of Life Insurance Presidents.**

Interesting details regarding the activities of the United States legislatures in matters affecting life insurance are given by General Counsel Robert Lynn Cox, in his seventh annual legislative report to the Association of Life Insurance Presidents. In connection with legislative work this year, the Association examined no less than 2,109 measures presented in 42 legislatures, and the 4,500 statutory requirements already affecting life insurance companies and their policyholders in the United States have been considerably augmented. However, some of the new laws are similar to provisions in other states and thus make for uniformity. The number of bills thus far enacted into law this year directly affecting the business of legal reserve life insurance is 97, as compared with 94 at this time in 1911. However, no measure has been enacted thus far during the present legislative season of a character to compel the withdrawal of companies from any of the states, although a considerable number of proposed statutes that would undoubtedly have had this effect were presented and considered in several of the states.

**ATTEMPTED PLUNDER.**

An amazing instance of attempted plunder of the life companies occurred in a south-western state where duplicate bills were introduced in the House and Senate, providing that every corporation doing business in the state should register with the State Auditor all interest bearing bonds owned by them and pay thereon a tax of 1 per cent. The twenty-seven life insurance companies doing business in that state hold in trust for policyholders real estate mortgage loans, railroad and other bonds amounting to \$2,081,000,000. Therefore, under this proposed legislation they would have been compelled to pay a tax of \$20,810,000 as the price of continuing to do business in the state. The total annual premium income of all companies in that state is about \$750,000! These bills were introduced by influential legislators, and one of the measures was passed by one branch of the legislature. No explanation was given as to the bills except that the State needed revenue!

"It can be truly said," observes Mr. Cox in concluding his report, "that with regard to the huge mass of crude material dropped into forty-nine legislative hoppers every year or every other year, it is certain that neglect to review all that is proposed and to criticise that which is in conflict with the best interests of policyholders would soon lead to the enactment of laws that would make the transaction of life insurance business absolutely impossible. The alternative seems to be to follow closely the activities of our legislative bodies and speak out frankly on all questions affecting life insurance, which is now held by as many of our people as there are families in this country. Their wishes when known and properly presented will surely prevail."

**CLAIM BEFORE PAYMENT OF PREMIUM.**

**Interesting English Incident—Compliment to the Yorkshire Insurance Company.**

English exchanges report an interesting instance of liberal treatment by the Yorkshire Insurance Company, which drew a high compliment from a judge in whose court the matter was mentioned. The circumstances are very peculiar. One day at two o'clock in the afternoon, a farmer called upon a solicitor in an English country town and stated that he wished to insure two men in his employ against accident. A proposal to the Yorkshire Insurance Company was duly filled up, but no premium was paid, and the proposal was sent on to the Company in the ordinary course of post. Later in the afternoon the farmer returned home, reaching there at 4.30. He was then informed that one of the men, regarding whom the proposal had been made, had met with a serious accident, he having been thrown from a cart by reason of a horse moving on. The man died the same night from his injuries. On the solicitor being informed several days afterwards of the occurrence, he notified the Yorkshire Insurance Company of what had happened, and the directors investigated the case. They came to the conclusion that they would have accepted the farmer's proposal had he come to the head office with it, and in view of the fact that the solicitor was able to prove that the farmer had come to him at two o'clock and signed the necessary papers, the directors felt that there was an honorable obligation upon them, though not legally bound, to treat that particular insurance as if it had been effected. The directors, therefore, decided to pay to the dependants of the dead man the sum of £156.

The judge, before whom a necessary application in this matter was made, said he thought the Yorkshire Insurance Company had acted in a manner which reflected the highest credit upon it.

**FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA IN 1912.**

We publish this week an abstract of the fire insurance business done in 1912 by the companies reporting to the Dominion Insurance department, as appearing in the newly published preliminary report of the Dominion Superintendent of Insurance. In due course will be published our customary statistical analysis, showing the ratio of net losses incurred to net cash received for premiums, in 1912, with the comparative figures for many years past. The present figures summarised show as follows:—

	Paid for losses 1912	Received for premiums 1912	Rate of losses paid p.c. of prem's recd. 1912 1911	
Canadian companies . . .	\$2,684,975	\$5,063,409	53.03	53.29
British companies . . .	6,319,064	12,092,125	52.26	55.17
Amer., etc., companies	3,068,757	6,038,987	50.82	48.16
<b>Totals. . . . .</b>	<b>\$12,072,797</b>	<b>\$23,194,521</b>	<b>52.05</b>	<b>53.16</b>

Mr. C. R. Dent, inspector Confederation Life Association, spent a few days in Montreal this week visiting the agents of his Company here. The Confederation Life has been well and favourably known in Montreal for many years, and it is the intention of the management to expand its business in the Metropolitan City.