CANADIAN CASUALTY & BOILER INSURANCE COMPANY.

The eleventh annual statement of the Canadian Casualty & Boiler Insurance Company for the calendar year 1913, shows that the business is on a sound basis. Premiums, less cancelments, returns and reinsurances, amounted to $104,665, special services to $3,009, and interest on investments to $6,177. Claims paid and the reserve for claims outstanding absorb $32,457, this experience being more favorable than that of 1912, and general expenses are $64,681. This leaves a balance at the credit of revenue account as a result of the operations of the year of $16,846. Total amount at the credit of revenue account is $41,709.

The balance sheet shows that the assets as at December 31 last, were $160,929, an advance of about $12,000 upon the 1912 total. Of the total assets, $138,008 are represented by investments of a high class character. Reserve for unearned premiums on the Dominion Government's standard is $61,734, and there is a reserve for claims awaiting adjustment of $5,414.

Policyholders in this company enjoy an ample security since the Canadian Casualty is controlled by the General Accident Fire and Life Corporation, of Perth, Scotland. Mr. John J. Durance is the manager of the Canadian Casualty, and its continued sound progress may be anticipated.

WHAT TAXATION MEANS.

In an address before the Life Underwriters Association of New York, Edward A. Woods, vice-president of the National Association of Life Underwriters and chairman of the Taxation Committee, pointed out the magnitude of the tax imposed upon life insurance institutions, which of course means life insurance policyholders. He pointed out that the tax of $13,000,000 which was exacted last year was sufficient to have purchased additional insurance of over half a million dollars, or to be exact, $550,000,000. Looking at it from another viewpoint, Mr. Woods stated that it would have added 14 per cent. to the refunds or dividends returned to policyholders; that it meant a demand of $63 from every $1,000 claim paid to widows and orphans. It is by looking at the tax from these angles that one is better able to understand its magnitude, as well as the injustice of it. While emphasizing the enormity of the present tax, Mr. Woods called attention to the fact that it is still on the increase and that strenuous co-operation will be required if a halt is to be called. He said that in 1871 there were twenty states that levied no tax, as against only one state at the present time. In 1860 the tax was 70 cents on each $100 premium, whereas it is now $2.06. Getting down to the aggregate amount of the tax, which is the best gauge, Mr. Woods said that in 1890 some $2,000,000 was collected as against $13,000,000 in 1913—this latter amount being exclusive of the recent Federal burden put upon insurance by the last administration. Another important point emphasized was that American states tax life insurance just about the same amount that the German government contributes towards compulsory insurance.

GASOLINE AND SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION IN FACTORY FIRES.

The fire marshal of Indiana is calling particular attention to the fact that 89 of all the factory fires reported in his state are given as of unknown origin. This indicates a lack of careful factory supervision, the fire marshal feels, and means that all fires that occur have usually gained such headway by the time they are discovered that it is impossible to accurately determine the cause.

Sparks from chimneys and locomotives were also responsible for 80 of the 330 factory fires. The fire marshal feels that the hazard from sparks is greatly lessened if factory buildings are covered with some incombustible material. Chimneys should also be high enough, to prevent the falling of sparks on wooden roofs.

Probably one of the most common causes of factory fires, as brought out in the fire marshal's report, is spontaneous combustion.

"The prevention of spontaneous combustion fires," says the fire marshal, "is simply a matter of good housekeeping. Floor sweepings, greasy lunch papers, oily waste and like materials should always be deposited in standard safety cans, suitable for preventing fire. Oily metal filings should not be allowed to accumulate on the floor, and all other combustible waste should be removed from the factory at the close of each day's work. If factories are kept clean the hazards of spontaneous combustion are greatly lessened."

Gasoline explosion is another common cause of factory fires, according to the report of the Indiana fire marshal. Factory owners are advised to see that gasoline and other volatile liquids are kept in standard safety cans. Open lights of any nature should not be used near the storage quarters of gasoline. Even electric lights, the fire marshal states, should be of keyless socket pattern for use in the presence of volatile materials, and the switch should always be located in a different apartment.

Among other recommendations made to factory owners, by the fire marshal, are the following:

"The use of strike-anywhere matches should be absolutely prohibited within factory limits.

"In building, pockets or concealed spaces in floors and walls should be avoided. The trash which collects in such places may be a source of fire.

All opening in side walls offering any exposure, should be protected by fire shutters."

SASKATOON'S FIRE INSURANCE.

The city of Saskatoon will shortly increase its fire insurance from $716,277.93 to $1,087,817.93. The additional premiums for this increase amount to merely some $40, because considerable reductions have been given on several of the rates, while other large reductions have been made possible by the insertion of co-insurance clauses in the schedules which have been drawn up. The city property is insured for eighty per cent. of its value, with the exception of the rolling stock of the street railway which is covered for ninety per cent.