Ten-Year Contracts in Canadian Business.

	1898. New business.	1898. Total in force.	1908. New business.	1908. Total in force.	Increase. New business.	Increase. Total in force.
Canadian Companies	$35,043,182	$226,209,636	$69,029,583	$480,266,931	97.1	112.4
British Companies	3,323,107	36,606,195	3,389,757	46,161,957	2.0	26.1
American Companies	16,398,384	105,708,154	27,476,866	193,087,126	67.6	82.7
	$54,764,673	$368,523,985	$99,896,206	$719,516,014	82.4	95.3

as they might well be. Apart from industrial and "thrift" insurance, there were in force at the year-end 422,608 policies for $665,709,507 in Canadian, British and American companies—an average of $1,575 per policy. Allowing for persons having two or more policies, probably there are not more than a quarter million Canadians insured in ordinary life companies. Which would indicate that, in these growing times, there are "prospects" in abundance for life insurance field-workers. Now that faith in assessmentism is steadily waning the outlook should be bright indeed. During 1908, insurance certificates in force throughout Canada in the four assessment concerns reporting to the Dominion Insurance Department decreased by over $8,000,000 to about $136,000,000.

Thus far in 1909, life companies generally are reporting gratifying increases over the business of 1908. Thus far, at any rate, there does not seem much "boom time" tendency on the part of the public towards neglecting life insurance for get-rich-quick schemes.

MILLION DOLLAR FIRE AT QUEBEC.

Canadian Northern Elevator, Harbour Sheds and Other Property Destroyed—Many Insurance Companies Involved.

The fire losses for Canada for 1909, which up to the end of September amounted to $14,327,816, according to the Monetary Times records, will be considerably increased by losses sustained last Saturday evening at Quebec, when the immense elevator of the Canadian Northern Quebec Railway Company, the Harbour Commission sheds, the customs house, the cold storage warehouse and other buildings nearby were burned. The damage exceeded $1,000,000 and one fireman was killed in the performance of his duties. The insurance by no means covers all the losses. The custom house, the loss in connection with which was approximately $100,000, carried no insurance whatever. This building belonged to the Federal Government.

First Sight of Fire.

The fire apparently started in the Canadian Northern elevator. Only because the wind was blowing in a contrary direction of the time the flames did not spread to the Lower Town. In that case, a much more disastrous conflagration would have occurred. It looked at one time as though the fire would devour the river front, but the good work of the brigade prevented its extension in that direction.

Constable Mercier of the Quebec City Police was the first to observe a small blaze in the conveyer leading from the marine leg to the elevator itself. He next saw flame and smoke in one of the conveyer windows. A general alarm was sounded and the whole brigade attended the scene. It is stated that fully fifteen minutes elapsed before a stream of water could be got ready to play on the flames. About 135,000 bushels of oats and corn were stored in the conveyer, The C.P.R. steamship, "Empress of Ireland," being in danger in the harbour, was moved from its wharf.

The following is one estimate of the losses:—

Elevator and conveyer	$ 350,000
Contents—corn and oats	100,000
Cold storage building	150,000
Contents in provisions	200,000
Shed No. 10 and contents	55,000
Bonded warehouse and contents	70,000
Freight shed No. 1 and contents	40,000
Freight shed No. 21 and contents	40,000
Custom House	100,000
Damage to wharves	15,000
Four Batteaux	8,000
Railway box cars and contents	79,000
Gear and tackle	2,000
Police station	500
Fraser's freight shed	1,000
Drawbridge workshops	200
Total	$1,210,700

Here are details of the insurance:—

Lloyds (understood to be), $85,825; Commercial Union, $5,000; London & Lancashire, $5,000; Manitoba, $11,000; Norwich Union, $5,000; New York Underwriters, $3,500; Connecticut $2,500; Richmond & Drummond, $4,000; Sterling, $4,000; North British & Mercantile, $7,500; Aetna, $2,500; Yorkshire, $2,500; Rochester-German, $1,500; Guardian, $10,000; London Mutual, $2,500; Equity, $3,000; Anglo-American, $2,500; Rimouski, $5,000; Ontario, $4,000; Union, $5,000; St. Paul, $2,500; Canadian, $5,000; Hartford, $3,750; British-America, $5,000; Outside companies, $2,400; Montreal-Canada, $2,500; Ontario, $1,500. **Total, $194,475.** Spring Garden, $640; National General, $7,500; Freehold, $1,140; Florida Home, $1,860; National, $1000; American, $500; Pacific, $1,000; Stuyvescent, $500; Louisville, $1,135; Potomac, $1,000; Gladbach, $1,000; National British Millers, $5,000; Salamander, $750; Bulgarian, $1,000; West Reserve, $1,000; Boston, $1,000. Grand total, $220,000.

Insurance on the Conveyer.

Outside companies, $22,000; Lloyds, $11,000. Total, $33,000 Elevator, $22,000; Conveyer, $33,000. Total on elevator and conveyer, $253,000.

It will be noticed that there are here named sixteen companies which are not recognized by the Dominion superintendent of insurance, granting policies on the elevator amounting in all to $25,525. There are also mentioned, besides, "outside companies" and Lloyds associations writing on both conveyer and elevator, making the total of underground insurance on these properties $146,350, while the total of the regular companies is only $106,650. The Monetary Times learns that these insurances were not placed by Messrs. Mackenzie & Mann, but were taken over and continued from the date of their purchase of the elevator from the Great Northern Railroad of Quebec, chartered many years ago.

On Harbour Commissioners' Property.

Police Station No. 10—	
Queens Insurance Company	600
Store No. 19—	
Ontario Insurance Company	1,000
Aetna Insurance Company	3,000
Guardian Insurance Company	4,000
Scottish Union Insurance Company	4,000
Store No. 3—	
Ottawa Insurance Company	2,000
Store No. 1—	
Guardian Insurance Company	6,000
Store No. 21—	
Norwich Union Insurance Company	5,000
Hartford Insurance Company	5,000
Cold Storage—	
Scottish Union Insurance Company	5,000
Atlas Insurance Company	2,500
North British & Mercantile Insurance Co.	2,500
London & Lancashire & Globe Insurance Co.	3,500
Phoenix Union, Ottawa, Insurance Co.	14,000

Insurance on Other Property.

Insurance on other property destroyed is as follows:—

Police Station No. 10, Queens, $600; store No. 19, Ontario $1,000; Aetna $3,000; Guardian $4,000; Scottish Union $4,000. Store No. 3—Ottawa Insurance Company, $2,000. Store No. 1—Guardian $6,000. Store No. 21—Norwich Union $5,000; Hartford $5,000; Cold storage—Scottish Union $5,000; Atlas $2,500; North British & Mercantile $2,500; London & Lancashire & Globe $3,500; Phoenix Union, Ottawa, $14,000.

Cold Storage—$2,500 in Atlas; $2,500 in North British & Mercantile; $3,500 in Liverpool & London & Globe, and $14,000 in Phoenix Union and Ottawa companies.

Store No. 3—$2,000 in Ottawa.

Store No. 1—$6,000 in Guardian.

Store No. 21—$5,000 in Norwich Union and $5,000 in Hartford. Total, $58,100.

The cold storage warehouse contained $200,000 worth of provisions, including 15,000 boxes of butter owned by a Montreal merchant, said to be uninsured. This building with its machinery, was valued at $15,000, and the general cargo in the freight sheds is valued at $200,000, not counting the buildings and $100,000 worth of general cargo, comprising liquors, molasses, sugar, etc., stored in the bonded warehouse. Four lighters, valued at $2,000 each, owned by Mr. John S. Thom, were also burned.

The supposed cause was an electric wire or overheated bearing. The necessity of a fire boat was amply demonstrated during the conflagration.