

# THE INSURANCE CHRONICLE

## LIFE ASSURANCE IN CANADA, 1909.

The business done in Canada by life companies last year is set forth concretely by a table at pages 42 and 43 of the Abstract just issued from the Insurance Superintendent's office at Ottawa. And the record is a creditable one. The increase in the aggregate in force at the close of 1909 is 7.8 per cent, over 1908, being from \$719,516,000 to \$780,370,000; while the increase in new business was from \$99,876,000 to \$131,432,000, equal to 24 per cent. It should be explained, however, that \$35,274,000 of the new business done was industrial assurance, transacted by two American and two Canadian companies, a very marked proportion.

Reckoning by premiums, the Canadian companies did 65.8 per cent. of the whole business, the American companies 28.20 per cent., the British 6 per cent. Only six British companies wrote any new insurance, although eight others continue to receive premiums on business written in former years. The number of American companies doing new insurance is 12. The Canadian companies reporting to Ottawa number 23. A table will show the relative proportions done by groups of companies:—

	Premiums for Year.	Amount of Policies New.	Net Amount in Force.
Canadian Companies	\$17,440,900	\$78,815,297	\$515,415,437
British	1,589,991	3,930,242	46,998,444
American	7,476,859	48,686,871	217,956,351
Totals for 1909....	\$26,507,750	\$131,432,410	\$780,370,232
Totals for 1908....	24,697,939	99,896,206	719,516,014
Increase .....	\$ 1,809,811	\$31,536,204	\$ 60,854,218

The number of policies which became claims during the year was 12,935, as compared with 1,823 in the previous year. The amount of these was \$10,131,243, as compared with \$9,828,331.

Claims paid, including matured endowments, amounted to \$10,038,265. Unsettled claims were \$1,035,943 unresisted and \$47,952 resisted. The large degree to which endowment insurance is being resorted to shows a growing desire to make life assurance an investment.

The four associations doing assessment insurance in Canada, reporting to the Ottawa Department, report \$130,854,000 of certificates in force compared with \$136,124,000 a year ago. Members had paid in \$2,272,078 and had paid out \$1,573,799 in claims. Although the number of certificates reported as taken was greater than in 1908, the amount of them was less in the proportion of \$7,677,750 to \$7,950,350, indicating that the average certificate was for a smaller amount.

As a specimen of the course of business for the year, the Canadian companies' transactions may be taken. The amount of insurance in force at 1st January in Canadian companies was \$448,067,594. Of this whole the proportion-terminated by death was \$3,949,423; by maturity, \$1,771,554; by expiry, \$724,668; by surrender, \$7,386,627; by lapse, \$30,548,025; not taken, \$7,968,438. New policies were issued for \$86,151,059; old policies revived for \$2,397,010, changed and increased, \$182,821. The result is an increase in the gross amount of insurance in force in the Canadian companies to \$523,797,365, equal to 14½ per cent. over 1908.

Like the development of other things in Canada during recent years, the growth of life assurance has been quite remarkable. For years up to 1880 the amount in force had been less than a hundred millions; it had reached 248 millions by 1890 and 431 millions by 1900.

From this point the figures take leaps and bounds of thirty, forty, sixty millions a year, until by 1905 a total of 630 millions is reached and by 1909 even 780 millions, distributed among the various groups of American, British and domestic companies as in the table already given.

## RECENT FIRES.

### Monetary Times' Weekly Register of Canadian Fire Losses and Insurance.

The following particulars are gathered from first Press reports of conflagrations. Upon these are instituted further inquiries which appear under heading "Additional Information."

**Oban, N.S.**—Residence of Mrs. Nicholson; damage, about \$750.

**Coe Hill, Ont.**—Residence of Mr. Tom Moore; totally destroyed.

**Verona, Ont.**—Methodist Church; damage, \$2,000; insurance, \$700.

**Membracook, N.B.**—Dominion Hotel; damage, \$8,000; insurance, \$3,500.

**Dundas, Ont.**—Residence of Mrs. Kipp; cause, unknown; damage, slight.

**Amherst, N.S.**—Foundry of the Malleable Iron Company; damage not stated.

**Cuelph, Ont.**—Stable and shed belonging to Mr. Geo. Coon; damage, \$500.

**Didsbury, Alta.**—Plant of the Maple Leaf Milling Company; damage, \$75,000.

**Mistatim, Sask.**—A large timber fire is reported; damage will be about \$1,000,000.

**Coverdale, N.B.**—Two barns owned by Mr. Edward Bleakney; totally destroyed.

**Norwood, Ont.**—Barns of Mr. J. Raddon and Mr. W. Baskin; damage not stated.

**Midnapore, Alta.**—Prairie fire; cause, carelessness with matches; damage not heavy.

**London, Ont.**—Store of Mr. O. B. Graves; cause, head broke off match; damage, \$300.

**Brockville, Ont.**—Grand Trunk Railway engine; wood-work between boiler and locomotive.

**Selkirk, Man.**—Factory of the Selkirk Match Company; damage, \$25,000; insurance, \$2,000.

**Halifax, N.S.**—Power-house of the Intercolonial Railway; cause, gas explosion; damage, slight.

**Coteau Junction, Que.**—Residence of Mr. Joseph Asselin; cause, lamp explosion; damage, \$2,000.

**North Vancouver, B.C.**—Residence of Mr. J. Page; cause, defective chimney; damage, fully insured.

**Saskatoon, Sask.**—Sash and door factory of Messrs. S. Hill & Son; damage, \$50,000; fully insured.

**Kinistino, Sask.**—Mill of the Kinistino Milling Company; damage, \$56,000; insurance, \$33,400.

**Fredericton, N.B.**—Bakery of Mr. W. R. Dunbar; cause, defective oven; damage, \$800; insurance, \$500.

**Belleville, Ont.**—Residence of Mr. John Matthews; cause, unknown; damage, about \$750; partly insured.

**Cuelph, Ont.**—Machine room of the Kleopfer Carriage Works; cause, hot box in dust fan; damage not stated.

**Scott's Junction, Que.**—Lumber mill of the Beauce Pulp and Lumber Company; damage, \$40,000; fully insured.

**Collingwood, Ont.**—Fur store owned and occupied by Mr. R. W. O'Brien; cause, unknown; damage, \$12,000; fully insured.

**Preston, Ont.**—Machine shop of Messrs. John Ballantine & Company; cause, unknown; damage, heavy; partly insured.

**Pense, Sask.**—Implement warehouse of Messrs. Scuber and McIntyre, and butcher shop of Mr. Byer; damage, \$5,000; insurance, \$500.

**Orillia, Ont.**—Factory of the Orillia Clothing Company; cause, unknown; damage, \$2,500; partly insured. Residence of Mr. James McKenzie; cause, overheated stove; damage, \$800.