

MISCELLANEOUS UNDERWRITING IN CANADA, 1915.

Of the various branches of insurance outside fire, life and marine, which come under the general heading of miscellaneous underwriting, employers' liability has been for some years the most important in Canada in the extent of the volume of business transacted. The term employers' liability, retained in the Government Blue Books and elsewhere to denote the class of insurance thus transacted is to some extent misleading. By no means all the business transacted in recent years under this heading has been strictly employers' liability business. A good deal of it has been workmen's compensation business—a very different thing—and the proportion of the latter has undoubtedly increased in recent years as various provinces have brought into force legislation on modern lines, giving compensation to the workman who meets with an accident in the course of his employment as a matter of right, instead of, as formerly, compelling him to prove the liability of his employer to grant him compensation.

Last year, the companies' employers' liability or workmen's compensation business received a severe set-back owing to the establishment of the Province of Ontario's monopolistic State scheme, concerning the results of the last year's working of which we had something to say last week. For some time past the tide of public sentiment in Canada, not very well informed, has undoubtedly been running in favor of State schemes and at opposite ends of Canada, on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, there have been threatenings of a following of Ontario's example. It would be premature to say that all danger in this connection is over, but at all events underwriters have reason to be cheered in the example set by Manitoba, which instead of blindly rushing after Ontario has adumbrated legislation of a distinctly interesting and apparently fair character. In a nutshell, Manitoba's scheme of workmen's compensation is the guarantee of compensation to workmen by the Province and the re-insurance of the Province's risk by the companies. How the scheme will work out in practice remains, of course, yet to be seen. But at all events it has not started off by doing a grave injustice, as was done in Ontario, to interests that have both expended and invested much money in the province and helped considerably in building it up.

A SEVERE RECESSION.

In view of the cessation of business in the province of Ontario, combined with the lull in construction, it is not surprising to find that the employers' liability income of the companies dropped last year by practically \$1,400,000, from \$3,433,179 to

\$1,959,058. The following is a nine-year record of premiums in this business:

1907.....	\$ 908,998	1912.....	\$2,817,286
1908.....	1,009,885	1913.....	3,516,758
1909.....	1,182,852	1914.....	3,433,179
1910.....	1,644,252	1915.....	1,959,058
1911.....	2,103,275		

The losses of the year amounted to \$1,035,118, against \$1,507,051 in 1914, and a proportion of 53 per cent. to premium income against 44 per cent. in the preceding year. While the general situation in regard to this business is a little brighter than it was, its course in the next year or two will undoubtedly continue to give underwriters an anxious time.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

With the sharp decline in employers' liability business, personal accident insurance resumes its place as the largest contributor to the miscellaneous insurance premium income. Last year's premiums totalled \$2,086,331, against \$2,202,942 in 1914. The tables on another page do not include about \$400,000 premium income and \$206,000 claims, from combined personal accident and sickness insurance issued by fraternal orders and small companies. The nine-year premium record of this business is as follows:

1907.....	\$1,382,077	1912.....	\$2,022,608
1908.....	1,408,013	1913.....	2,199,885
1909.....	1,642,403	1914.....	2,202,942
1910.....	1,815,571	1915.....	2,086,331
1911.....	1,831,476		

Losses incurred during 1915 were \$1,093,789 against \$1,050,879 in 1914, a ratio of 52.4 per cent. as compared with 48 per cent. in the previous year.

GUARANTEE INSURANCE.

The companies doing guarantee insurance show an extensive increase in business last year, and a much better loss experience than in 1914. Premiums were \$915,127 compared with \$805,619 in 1914; losses \$207,143 against \$413,616, a ratio of 22.6 per cent. compared with 51.3 per cent.

SICKNESS INSURANCE.

Including those collected by a number of fraternal orders, premiums in this branch were \$1,085,056 against \$1,133,413 in 1914. Losses incurred were \$662,793 against \$690,449 in 1914—a ratio of 61.0 per cent, practically the same as in 1914.

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE.

This business shows a fair advance for 1915, the premium income being \$621,074 against \$573,604. Losses were \$282,614 compared with \$297,499, a percentage of 45.5 per cent. compared with 52.0 per cent. in the preceding year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Additionally there are a number of minor kinds
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