

FIRE PREMIUMS AND TAXATION IN MONTREAL, 1913.

We publish herewith our annual table showing (1) the amount of fire insurance premiums upon risks in the city received by the fire companies doing business in Montreal in 1913, and (2) the details of the taxation levied upon the fire companies by the city. As regards the premiums received by the companies during 1913, it will be seen that these are returned at \$2,934,551, against \$2,645,684 in 1912 and \$2,389,050 in 1911. The increase over 1912, nearly \$300,000, is considerably larger than has been previously recorded for some years. In fact, for several years past the increase each year has been larger than in the year preceding. This is, of course, a reflection of the immense advance in property values in the city from year to year owing to the city's rapid growth and the erection of large buildings, costing in many cases very considerable sums of money, on sites formerly occupied by old structures of small value. In regard to these new structures it may be noted that where they embody the results of modern fire-prevention research the premium rates upon them are considerably lower proportionately than on earlier construction. Underwriters give full credit for adherence to sound and up-to-date practise in this direction.

UNFAIR COMPETITION.

During 1913 there was no change in the tax situation, relieving underwriters who do their business in an above-board way from the serious and unfair competition carried on by London Lloyds and other insurance organisations who do an underground business in the city of Montreal, as elsewhere in Canada. Thanks to the political pressure exerted by the manufacturers, the insurance companies are denied that protection against unfair competition which the manufacturers eagerly claim for themselves. Every argument which is used by the manufacturers in support of protection for themselves can be used equally well by the insurance companies. But with the manufacturers, circumstances alter cases, and accordingly the insurance companies doing their business in a straight-forward fashion are mulcted in large amounts of municipal taxation which their competitors are free from, to say nothing of the indefensible and unfair imposts placed upon them by other taxing authorities.

NO RETURNS FOR THIS TAXATION.

The expenses of the fire commissioners this year are put down at \$8,400, the same figure as last year, so that the companies pay for this purpose \$5,600 as in 1912. The basis of the tax upon premiums (altered by the Legislature in 1911), is a one per cent. straight tax on the premiums, with a minimum tax of \$200. Formerly, there was a maximum

NAME OF COMPANY.	Premiums 1913	1 % Tax	of Cost. Fire Com. Office	TOTAL
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Acadia	7,418	200.00	14.15	214.15
Aetna	42,198	421.98	80.52	502.50
Alliance	64,667	646.67	123.40	770.07
Atlas	67,240	672.40	128.30	800.70
British America	23,200	232.00	44.26	276.26
British Colonial	10,826	200.00	20.65	220.65
British Dominions	8,637	200.00	16.47	216.47
Caledonian	51,333	513.33	97.94	611.27
Commercial Union	117,812	1,178.12	224.78	1,402.90
Connecticut	14,812	200.00	28.26	228.26
Employers' Liability	29,031	290.31	55.41	345.72
Fidelity-Phenix	45,421	454.21	86.61	540.82
Firemen's Fund	6,378	200.00	12.16	212.16
General of Paris	14,170	200.00	27.03	227.03
General of Perth	12,161	200.00	23.20	223.20
German American	62,225	622.25	118.72	740.97
Guardian	160,872	1,608.72	306.94	1,915.66
Hartford	40,487	404.87	77.25	482.12
Home	33,813	338.13	64.51	402.64
Law Union & Roek	24,914	249.14	47.53	296.67
Livpl. & Lon. & Globe	162,938	1,629.38	310.88	1,940.26
Liverpool-Manitoba	20,450	204.50	39.02	243.52
London & Lancashire	76,637	766.37	146.22	912.59
Imperial Underwriters	5,581	200.00	10.65	210.65
National of Hartford	11,806	200.00	22.52	222.52
National Union	22,405	224.05	42.75	266.80
New York Underwriters	33,033	330.33	63.02	393.35
Niagara	17,147	200.00	32.71	232.71
North America	90,710	907.10	173.07	1,080.17
N. British & Mercantile	188,982	1,889.82	360.57	2,250.39
Northern	91,402	914.02	174.39	1,088.41
North West	11,947	200.00	22.79	222.79
Norwich Union	53,894	538.94	102.83	641.77
Pacific Coast	7,664	200.00	14.62	214.62
Palatine	12,759	200.00	24.34	224.34
Phenix of Hartford	35,115	351.15	67.00	418.15
Phenix of London	142,030	1,420.30	270.99	1,691.29
Providence-Washingt'n	24,934	249.34	47.58	296.92
Quebec	6,332	200.00	12.08	212.08
Queen	72,396	723.96	138.13	862.09
Royal	207,159	2,071.59	395.25	2,466.84
Royal Exchange	56,926	569.26	108.71	677.97
St. Paul	6,634	200.00	12.65	212.65
Scottish Union & Nat.	49,652	496.52	94.73	591.25
Springfield	33,197	331.97	63.34	395.31
Sun	33,998	339.98	64.86	404.84
Union of London	59,260	592.60	113.06	705.66
Union of Paris	29,332	293.32	55.96	349.28
Westchester	8,511	200.00	16.25	216.25
Western	95,729	957.29	182.65	1,139.94
Yorkshire	67,450	674.50	129.70	804.20
Mount Royal	100,204	1,002.04	191.19	1,193.23
Dominion Fire	21,755	217.55	41.50	259.05
London Mutual	31,605	316.05	60.30	376.35
Ontario (estimated)	8,964	200.00	17.10	217.10
Provincial	14,600	200.00	27.85	227.85
Rimouski (estimated)	20,000	200.00	38.16	238.16
Equity	13,006	200.00	24.81	224.81
Anglo-American	1,973	200.00	3.76	203.76
Montreal-Canada	22,573	225.73	43.06	268.79
Factories	10,249	200.00	19.55	219.55
American Lloyds	4,244	200.00	8.09	208.09
Stratheona	17,178	200.00	32.77	232.77
Hudson Bay (estimated)	6,000	200.00	11.45	211.45
La Protection	3,559	200.00	6.79	206.79
Provincial of England	8,263	200.00	15.76	215.76
Stanstead & Sherbrooke	3,433	200.00	6.57	206.57
Missisquoi-Rouville	1,990	200.00	3.80	203.80
London Assurance	23,459	234.59	44.76	279.35
Equitable	2,622	200.00	5.00	205.00
Continental	45,215	452.15	86.32	538.47
Total	\$2,934,551	32,556.53	5,600.00	38,156.53

of \$1,000 but this maximum has now been abolished—an alteration in tax methods which makes a difference to a number of the companies of several