

with British companies, and \$28,436, an increase of \$17,038, with American companies. In resisted claims, which amount to \$35,882, there is a decrease from 1889 of \$28,243. Canadian companies have \$7,898 compared with \$14,031, a decrease of \$6,133; British companies have \$27,384 compared with \$48,694, a decrease of \$21,310; and American companies have \$600 compared with \$1,400, a decrease of \$800. The steady increase in fire insurance premiums paid in Canada is shewn in a detailed statement for the last ten years, the totals of which are as follows:—1881 \$3,827,116, 1882 \$4,229,706, 1883 \$4,624,741, 1884 \$4,980,128, 1885 \$4,852,460, 1886 \$4,932,335, 1887 \$5,244,502, 1888 \$5,437,263, 1889 \$5,588,016, 1890 \$5,841,628. For the years, 1869 to 1890 the net cash premiums received amounted to \$85,843,628, and the losses paid to \$59,816,228, showing an excess of premiums over losses of \$26,027,400. The percentage of losses paid to net cash premiums received was, therefore, 69.68, that of the Canadian companies being 71.55, that of the British companies 69.18, and that of the American companies 66.81. In our next issue we shall deal with the life companies doing business in Canada, reserving the miscellaneous for a subsequent issue.—*The Shareholder*.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Although the Superintendent of Insurance has described as "subject to correction" the figures relating to insurance companies doing business in Canada, which find place in his Abstract just received, we presume it will be reasonably safe to consider the totals of them as substantially accurate for purposes of comparison. It will be instructive to take, for example, the premiums of all fire companies for a series of years, and compare them with the fire losses for the same period. Thus, for the twelve years, 1869 to 1880, the total premiums received were \$36,285,000, and the losses for the same twelve years were \$29,276,000, or more than 80 per cent. Taking another period of ten years, from 1881 to 1890 inclusive, we find the premiums to have been \$49,557,995—representing nearly two millions per annum more premiums and \$205,000,000 per annum more new risks taken—while the losses were \$30,540,000. There is thus a marked improvement in the results of the business done, the ratio of loss in the later ten years being only 61.6 of the premiums, where in the earlier twelve years of the twenty-two under review they exceeded 80 per cent.

The totals of a summary of the fire underwriting business done by all companies for the years from 1869 to 1890 inclusive shows the proportion done by the Canadian and other companies, thus: