

THE DOMINION LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

That the directors of the Dominion Life Assurance Company were able to report upon the past year as being the most successful in the company's history, is no slight distinction for any life office after a twelvemonth of such general business conditions as those of 1908. Much satisfaction was naturally expressed by shareholders at the statements made by President Hilliard at the annual meeting held in Waterloo, Ont., recently.

The total assets of the company are now \$1,620,361.68, an increase for the year of \$211,249.92. The liabilities of the company amount to \$1,351,861.11, consisting for the most part of reserves held for the protection of policyholders. The directors' report states that the company's reserves are about \$60,000 greater than is required by the Dominion Insurance Act.

Surplus on policyholders' account on the valuation adopted by the company, now amounts to the substantial sum of \$268,500.57. On the Government standard it would be about \$328,500. The surplus earnings for the year amounted to \$69,006, and after paying out of this dividends to policyholders and to shareholders and providing for surplus accretions to policies, there was left a balance of \$38,427.25 to be carried forward.

The total net cash income from premiums amounted to \$253,495.94, and from interest, rents, and profit on sale of securities, \$91,015.94, making the total cash income \$344,511.88, an increase for the year of \$35,714.93. The interest receipts alone, it is to be noted, were almost sufficient to pay all expenses of management.

The report states that during 1908 there were issued and revived policies to the amount of \$1,543,406, the largest amount ever written in one year within the history of the company, showing an increase over 1907 of \$227,938. The assurances in force amount to \$8,171,153, showing a very substantial increase for the year.



THE NEW ISSUE OF \$50,000,000 ADDITIONAL C.P.R. Stock, approved by order-in-council, is subject to an important proviso, as follows:—"The minister further recommends that the said \$50,000,000 of stock shall not, nor shall any part thereof, nor shall any moneys arising therefrom, no matter how disposed of, be deemed capital expenditure in the construction of the railways within the meaning of section 20 of the company's act of incorporation, 44 Vic, chap. 1, and the power of the Parliament of Canada or the Governor-General-in-Council to reduce the tolls upon the railway of the company shall in no wise be affected by such increase of capital stock in whole or in part, nor by the expenditures of any such moneys in the construction of railway or otherwise; but the same shall be excluded from consideration in determining the amount of capital.

NON-TARIFF FIRE INSURANCE MEN in Toronto have formed the Fire Insurance Society of Toronto, an organization with educational and social aims similar to those of the Insurance Institute of that city.

From Western Fields**COMPARATIVE WHEAT YIELDS SHOWN BY SASKATCHEWAN AND MANITOBA.**

More Careful Farming Methods Urged—Grain Shipment via Vancouver—Railway Building in the West—Winnipeg Electric's Showing for 1908—New Fire Insurance Rates for Winnipeg—Many Fire Companies Entering Manitoba.

Saskatchewan now boasts the proud pre-eminence of surpassing even Manitoba in the production of wheat and oats. The final figures issued by the provincial department of agriculture place the total yield of wheat at 50,654,620 bushels, while the final bulletin of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, issued about the middle of December, indicated a wheat production in that Province of 49,252,539 bushels. On this basis Saskatchewan leads for the season by 1,402,090 bushels. The production of oats in Saskatchewan is estimated at 48,379,838 bushels as compared with 44,686,043 bushels in Manitoba, giving Saskatchewan a lead of 3,693,795 bushels. Differing methods of computation may effect the comparison considerably. One consolidation Manitoba has—and an important one—in the admitted fact that the yield per acre for both wheat and oats is larger in their Province than in Saskatchewan. The average production of wheat was about 3.6 bushels greater, and that of oats about 9.5 bushels greater. The provincial government plainly tells Saskatchewan farmers that they should improve their methods of agriculture.

The acreage for the four leading cereals, wheat, oats, barley and flax, for 1908, was 5,979,841, as compared with 3,057,401 in the preceding season—an increase of 2,922,440 acres, or about 95 per cent. From the influx of settlers from all parts of the English-speaking world in the years from 1904 to 1907, the real results are only now being felt in the grain-production of Saskatchewan.

Pacific Shipment of Grain.

Word comes from Vancouver that grain is arriving in considerable quantity for Pacific export on the French vessel, Amiral Duperré. About 500 tons will be placed in a compartment in the lower hold and the result will be awaited with interest. The total shipment will be about 45 or 50 cars, the longest wheat train to come to the Pacific Ocean over the C.P.R.

It is stated that a Kingston, Ont., firm is negotiating with the Vancouver City Council for assistance in the shape of exemption from taxation and guarantee of bonds to erect a terminal elevator there for the storage of Alberta grain. This firm erected at Fort William an elevator which cost \$1,250,000. A site has been negotiated for on Burrard Inlet, owned by the C.P.R. It is not considered that the council will grant any assistance, as the C.P.R. is expected to proceed with the prompt erection of an elevator.

New Railroads for Alberta.

Railway building in the prairie provinces goes on apace. Premier Rutherford has now given positive assurance in the Alberta Legislature that the