

HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The improved conditions of fire underwriting last year are reflected in the 93rd annual exhibit of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company. All such enterprises must necessarily pass through the initial stages of comparative weakness during which the struggle to secure the confidence that brings business is a severe of the managing capacity of those in control. "Survival of the fittest," is the inexorable law governing this sphere. The Hartford can point to a career of well on to a century during which it has steadily advanced from one degree of strength to a higher, and in the period has paid loss claims to the extent of \$79,000,000. The best eulogy of such a company is its record, and the highest assurance of its deserving absolute confidence is found in the business continuing to enlarge its resources even when unfavourable conditions have prevailed. Since 1897 there has been a succession of very "lean" years, for fire companies, indeed, disastrous ones it might be said, yet the Hartford, since 1897 has increased its total assets from \$10,014,697 to \$13,443,560, an increase in 5 years of \$3,438,863. In that period the reserve for reinsurance was enlarged from \$4,894,406 to \$7,812,840. If the few years between now and the date of its centenary are favourable there will be such increases as will render that event a great celebration, forward to which, no doubt, the able President, Mr. Geo. L. Chase, and his colleagues, are looking with sanguine hopes.

During the past year the Company's assets rose from \$12,759,076 to \$13,443,560, an increase of \$1,184,484; the reinsurance reserve was raised from \$6,798,504 to \$7,812,840, an increase of \$1,014,336; besides which reserve the Company holds \$1,199,565 as reserve for all unsettled claims. The surplus to policyholders stands at \$4,431,153. Mr. H. A. Fromings, who has the management of the Hartford's business in Montreal, being energetic and judicious, is maintaining the Company's high reputation and advancing its interests.

THE METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has won its way into confidence by strict adherence to all its promises, any departures from the terms of its contracts having been made in favour of policyholders from a spirit of liberality. No life assurance company could have written 6,976,651 policies without the co-operation of its policyholders. With their assistance the Metropolitan in the last 10 years has been able to increase the number of its policies in force to extent of 4,156,791 and to raise its income from \$13,307,811 in 1892 to \$43,336,283 in 1902. The policy claims paid in 1902 amounted to \$11,397,333.

Trees, whose roots are unsound, do not thrive at that rate, but such vigorous growth as the Metro-

politan has exhibited proves that its constitution is sound and that the roots, the business principles on which it is based, are healthy.

FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR JANUARY, 1903.

		(Estimated).	
Date.	Location.	Risk.	Ins. Loss.
Jan. 1	Petite Codiac, N.B.,	Stores, Dwigs. and Confs.,	10,350 10,350
" 2	North Sydney, N.S.,	Stores and Confs.,	5,300 5,300
" 5	Wapella, N.W.T.,	Clothing Stock,	2,200 2,200
" 9	Hamilton, Ont.,	Bldg., fix. and Stock	76,500 76,500
" 9	London, Ont.,	Depart'al Store,	
" 14	Fraserville, Que.,	Bldg., Foundry, Mch'y. and Stock,	17,000 17,000
" 14	Montreal,	Dwlg. and Confs.,	4,300 4,300
" 14	Quebec,	Bldg., Stores, Printing Office and Confs.,	42,500 11,850
" 14	Hamilton, Ont.,	Bldg., Office and Confs.,	2,500 1,360
" 15	Quebec,	Basket factory, Store and Confs.,	4,000 4,000
" 15	Delhi, Ont.,	Canning Factory and Confs.,	10,000 1,200
" 15	Coticook, Que.,	Dwlg., Dwlg.,	30,000 30,000
" 15	London, Ont.,	Iron Works,	400 400
" 15	Gagetown, N.B.,	Dwlg. and Confs.,	2,200 450
" 18	Quebec,	Bldg. and Confs.,	800 800
" 19	Montreal,	Dry Goods Store, Nail Mills and Confs.,	17,500 11,000
" 20	"	Bldg. and Confs.,	156,700 62,500
" 21	St. Henri de Montreal,	Dry Goods Store,	19,900 17,900
" 21	Montreal,	"	10,500 10,500
" 26	St. Ours, Que.,	Boat Store, Bldg. and Stock,	6,000 3,900
" 28	Gladstone, Man.,	Country Store, Flour Mill, Elevator and Confs.,	7,000 7,000
" 24	St. Johns, Que.,	Pottery Works,	26,200 26,200
" 25	Toronto Junction,	Drug Stock,	6,000 6,000
" 29	Montreal,	Whse., Offices and Confs.,	1,500 1,500
" 29	Owen Sound,	Dwlg. and Confs.,	28,300 15,300
" 30	Toronto,	Bldgs., Stores and Confs.,	3,000 2,300
			15,500 5,500
			486,150 334,410
Add 20 p.c. for unreported Losses and Losses under \$1,000.....			97,230 66,882
			\$583,380 \$401,292

FIRE LOSSES IN CANADA FOR FEBRUARY, 1903.

Date.	Location.	Risk.	Ins. Loss.
Feb. 1	Arnprior, Ont.,	Dwlg. and Confs.,	11,300 4,015
" 3	Port Rowan, Ont.,	Stores and Confs.,	18,700 18,700
" 4	Montreal,	"	8,300 4,725
" 5	Sydney, N.S.,	"	25,480 22,691
" 6	Hampton, N.B.,	Saw Mills and Confs.,	53,000 21,162
" 9	Peterboro, Ont.,	Bldg. and Confs., Two Dry Goods Stores,	69,000 51,500
" 10	Granby, Que.,	Furniture factory, Stores and Confs.,	5,150 3,625
" 10	"	"	5,600 3,600
" 17	Winnipeg,	Bldg. and Confs., Carpet Whse.,	66,500 66,500
" 15	Sorel, Que.,	Dwelling,	2,000 2,000
" 19	Sydney, N.S.,	Schedule Coal Working Plant,	423,000 128,000
" 16	Quebec,	Stores and Confs.,	1,600 1,600
" 16	"	"	58,150 58,150
" 22	"	"	39,000 21,500
" 24	Orangeville,	Hotel, Stores and Confs.,	19,500 17,250
" 27	Inglewood,	Woolen Mills and Confs.,	12,000 12,000
			818,280 437,018
Add 20 p.c. for unreported Losses and Losses under \$1,000.....			163,656 87,403
			\$981,936 \$524,421