

an extent of business as needs all the attention and prudent management which are bestowed upon it. Last year the loss ratio was exceptionally moderate, as was the case generally. This year fire insurance is under a cloud, owing to several conflagrations, but, so far as the Union Assurance Society is concerned, the cloud has the proverbial "silver lining," as its reserves are so large as to fully provide for these or even worse disasters.

LOSSES BY BALTIMORE CONFLAGRATION.

The Insurance Department of the State of Illinois has published a table giving a list of losses by the Baltimore conflagration sustained by the insurance companies, authorized to do business in that State, compiled from their sworn special statements. The table appended is a synopsis of the more detailed one issued by Mr. William R. Vredinburg, the Illinois Insurance Superintendent.

The aggregate given in the table exceeds in amount what has been generally reported, the total losses at Baltimore being \$25,783,456. Of this sum \$4,492,721 falls upon the American fire insurance companies that are operating in Canada, and \$8,523,946 on British and Canadian companies. Seven British companies are down on the list for \$5,323,000.

Fortunately for the insured, fortunately for the city of Baltimore, the amount of these losses will be paid in full; there were others, however, not included in the table, the payment in full of which is doubtful, as the insurance had been placed in weak, local companies that had no resources to provide for conflagration risks.

The following schedule was compiled from the table of the Illinois Superintendent of Insurance:—

Companies.	Net amount of loss sustained by Company.
FOREIGN COMPANIES, U. S. BRANCHES.	
Aachen & Munich, Germany.....	\$149,665 00
Atlas Assurance.....	226,969 00
British America Assurance.....	193,841 00
Caledonian.....	221,239 88
Commercial Union Assurance.....	413,795 00
Salamanca, Russia.....	150,000 00
Hamburg-Bremen.....	103,150 00
Law, Union & Crown.....	108,438 00
Liverpool & London & Globe.....	965,282 00
London Assurance.....	190,629 60
London & Lancashire.....	290,000 00
Manchester Assurance.....	234,895 00
Munich, Germany.....	500,000 00
National Assurance Co.....	132,003 00
Northern Assurance Co.....	649,221 00
North British & Mercantile.....	895,648 00
Norwich Union.....	589,933 16
Palatine, Ltd.....	198,500 00
Phoenix Assurance.....	480,124 00
Royal, England.....	978,587 00
Royal Exchange, England.....	353,301 00
Scottish Union & National.....	148,542 00

Skandia, Sweden.....	147,000 00
Sun Insurance Office.....	595,108 00
Union Assurance Society.....	336,069 00
Western Assurance.....	331,821 00
Miscellaneous.....	\$159,587 00

Total of U. S. Branches of Foreign Co.'s... \$9,743,318 86

U. S. Joint Stock Companies operating in Canada.

Aetna.....	\$578,594 50
Connecticut.....	300,000 00
Hartford.....	1,199,988 00
Home, New York.....	768,139 00
Insurance Co. of North America.....	500,000 00
Queen's of America.....	450,000 00
Phoenix, New York.....	371,000 00
Phoenix, Conn.....	325,000 00

Total..... 4,492,721 50

Other U. S. Joint Stock Companies..... 11,403,466 39

Total..... \$15,896,187 89

RECAPITULATION.

Total losses of the U. S. Branches of Foreign Companies.....	\$9,743,318 86
Total losses of U. S. Co.'s operating in Canada..	4,492,721 50
" " other U. S. Joint Stock Co.'s....	11,403,466 39
" " U. S. Mutual Insurance Co.'s....	143,949 41

Grand aggregate of losses by Baltimore conflagration..... \$25,783,456 16

PROMINENT TOPICS.

The extraordinary measure which was presented to the Quebec Legislature, we are pleased to know, has been modified to a large extent, and the majority of the original and more objectionable clauses have been struck out. We refer more especially to those asking for unlimited borrowing powers and unlimited powers to open, widen or prolong streets and carry on works of a like nature. The Montreal delegation went down to Quebec on Tuesday evening last, expecting that the Bill would be taken up in the modified form, but it was discovered, after the delegation got there, that it was not to be taken up until next Tuesday, the 17th inst. An attempt, it is understood, will be made to reintroduce the clauses concerning the construction of conduits and the purchase of the gas plant and franchises; it is also expected that interested parties, not connected with the Council, will endeavour to get some more streets or portions of streets expropriated. It is suggested that if the clauses regarding the purchase of the gas works and building of conduits be reinstated, they will not become operative until submitted by by-law to the ratepayers, and approved of by the majority in number and value of the assessed property of real estate owners.

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As stated in our last issue, we regard as a great pity that expropriations should have been commenced by the city, and that the consolidated Charter had been tampered with and sought to be, or amended for it was proving to be a good charter for this city.