

LIFE INSURANCE IN CANADA.

Some Figures Showing Growth of this Business.

At the present time, when criticism of insurance companies seems to be the popular vocation, it is interesting to notice the place which life insurance holds in Canada. The following statistics, showing the life insurance in force in Canada and the growth of business during recent years, is therefore of unusual interest. Aggregate life insurance in force in Canada, on the first of January, 1910, was \$780,370,232. This does not include, however, insurance conducted on the assessment plan. This figure is divided as follows:

	Ordinary.	Industrial.
23 Canadian Companies .	\$494,190,870	\$21,224,567
14 British Companies....	46,998,444	
16 American Companies.	171,248,452	46,707,899
Total.....	\$712,437,776	\$67,932,466

This insurance represents 1,025,371 policyholders, distributed as follows:

	Ordinary.	Industrial.
Canadian Companies....	\$321,403	\$184,062
British Companies.....	23,105	
American Companies....	108,206	388,595

At the present time there are 41 companies engaged in the life insurance business in Canada. Of the Canadian companies nine do business outside of Canada, carrying \$137,294,682 worth of insurance. Insurance in force in Canada on the first of January, 1910, showed an increase of \$60,854,218 over the previous year. This large growth is probably not equalled in any other country in the world having the same population as Canada.

The increase was divided as follows:

Canadian Companies....	\$35,148,506
British Companies.....	836,487
American Companies....	24,869,225

From the above figures it would look as though Canadians had confidence in their own and American companies. The failure of the British companies to do a larger amount of business is due probably to their indifference to the Canadian field.

The growth of insurance in Canada during the past 30 years showed a remarkable expansion. In 1879 the total insurance in force was \$86,273,702, divided as follows:

Canadian Companies....	\$33,246,543
American Companies....	33,616,330
British Companies....	19,410,829

In 1909, thirty years later, the insurance for Canada was distributed as follows:

		Increase.
Canadian Companies....	\$515,415,437	1,450.3%
British Companies....	46,998,444	112.1%
American Companies....	217,955,351	548.4%

This large increase in the development of Canadian companies is very gratifying and shows the remarkable expansion in the financial and industrial welfare of the people. It also shows an increased confidence on the part of people in insurance companies, doubtless due, to a large extent, to the rigid system of inspection demanded by the Government.

The following figures in regard to surrenders

and lapses are also of interest. In 1909 these stood as follows:

	Surrenders.	Lapses.
Canadian Companies....	\$7,386,627	30,548,025
American Companies....	4,665,257	17,204,516
British Companies.....	649,189	1,525,769

Put into percentages the loss in proportion to insurance carried would be:

	Surrenders.	Lapses.
Canadian Companies....	1.43%	5.93%
American Companies....	2.14%	7.89%
British Companies.....	1.38%	3.24%

This question of surrenders and lapses is one of the greatest problems confronting insurance companies and naturally affect the Profit and Loss Account. It is found that most of the lapses occur after the first year, the insured party paying one premium and then quitting.

The amount paid in death claims in Canada in 1900 was \$8,072,269, distributed as follows:

Canadian Companies....	4,982,034
British Companies.....	801,073
American Companies....	2,289,162, or in terms of percentages.

Canadian Companies. .96% the aggregate business
British Companies. .17 % the aggregate business
American Companies. 1.05% the aggregate business

The assets and liabilities of the various life insurance companies, at the end of 1909, follow:

	Assets.	Liabilities. (includ. reserve)
Canadian Companies....	\$153,934,330	\$134,444,969
British Companies.....	26,736,763	16,011,306
American Companies....	47,069,837	44,818,473

From the above figures it will be seen that the policyholders are adequately protected by the large assets of the companies. This protection is further safeguarded by the Insurance Commission, who have stipulated that insurance companies cannot invest their funds in anything of a speculative nature. The following are the classes of securities which they are allowed to purchase:

- (1) Government, School and Municipal Bonds.
- (2) Bonds secured by mortgage on Real Estate.
- (3) Debentures of any companies accredited by three years of successful business.
- (4) Certain kinds of Preferred and Common Stock.
- (5) Real Estate Mortgage up to 60 per cent. of the value of realty.
- (6) Loans on the Policy of any licensed Life Insurance Co.
- (7) Certain miscellaneous securities.

RAILWAY MORTALITY.—Statistics show that the number of deaths per hundred of each million travellers on the railroads of Germany is 8; in Prussia, 7; in Austria, 12; in France, 13; in England, 14; in Switzerland, 15; in Belgium, 22; in the United States, 45, and in Russia, 224.

MR. J. R. Wandless, F. I. A, Actuary and Chief Accountant of the British Branch of the Canada Life in London, E.C. has been visiting the Head Office of the Company in Toronto.

INCREASE IN FARM INCOME IN UNITED STATES.

The following statistics are of interest, as Canadian and American farm conditions are in the main similar.

In 1909 average income from an acre of corn was \$15.20. In the decade ending with 1905 it was \$9.35, an increase of \$5.85 or 62.5 per cent. The cereal crops show the greatest amount of increase. Below are given the farm values per acre for four cereals, compared with potatoes and hay on the acreage unit:

	Average farm value per acre.			
	1909	1895-1905	Inc.	Inc. p.c.
Corn.....	\$15.20	\$9.35	\$5.85	62.5
Wheat.....	15.62	9.37	6.25	66.7
Oats.....	12.29	8.32	3.97	47.7
Barley.....	13.40	10.34	3.06	29.5
Potatoes.....	58.59	42.12	16.47	39.1
Hay.....	15.07	11.62	3.45	29.6

These figures show that the prices for farm products advanced to an extent that has probably not been shared by any other one of the important national industries. From 1896 to 1905, inclusive, was a period of advances from a low to a high level of farm income. 1909 was marked by prices very much the same as those thus far in 1910. This is especially true of the six articles of farm production mentioned above. They illustrate from official sources the marked increase in gross income of the 7,000,000 farms of the country.

BUILDING RECORD.

Montreal's showing for nine months double last year's figures.

MONTREAL's building record for the nine months of the present year which have elapsed shows a marked increase over the same period of last year. In fact, the figures are double, and Building Inspector Chausse declared that it was one of the biggest years in the history of the department. The total valuation this year, based on the estimates of materials, is \$11,205,381, while the total for the same period of last year was but \$5,650,412.

Even September, which has just passed, proved a busy building month. The total is a shade under one million dollars. In four other months the amount is in the neighbourhood of a million and a half dollars, while in July it rose to \$3,000,000. This was the banner month, but the way buildings have been going up since is proof that 1910 will be a notable year for building operations.

The record of new buildings by months follows:—January, \$136,560; February, \$235,800; March, \$587,239; April, 1,647,295; May, \$1,580,615; June, \$1,430,028; July, \$3,182,408; August, \$1,393,047; and September, \$912,386.

For the same months in 1909 the record shows a marked difference. Only twice last year did the total rise above the million mark, while this year it has done so five times, with another month just hanging on the border of the big sum.

The amount of money spent on repairs this