

instance, Guelph is credited with a fire loss of \$17,829, London with \$21,871, St. Catharines \$13,120, and Toronto \$210,115. What security has Brantford against experiencing the annual loss of Guelph or London, and in that case what will become of that \$20,000 so snugly saved—on paper? Brantford has been especially fortunate for a year or two in the matter of fire loss. So was St. John's, Newfoundland, until a few months ago, when one day a fire came along and wiped out the town. What a nice thing the operation of a self-insurance scheme would have been then for St. John's. The conflagration hazard is always present with every town and city, and however sure its citizens may be that their place is safe, and that it is always the "other fellow" who gets hurt, they now and then have a rude awakening from their delusion. Brantford is quite as liable to a great destructive fire, or a series of smaller ones running into a large aggregate, as any one of twenty other towns of similar size and situation. In that case that proposed \$100,000 of capital might not be half enough to go around, and the subscribers made bankrupt by playing with fire insurance might wish they had paid to established strong companies their few dollars of premium and saved their fortune.

FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA IN 1892.

As has been our custom for several years, we present in this issue a full page table giving in detail the net premiums received and losses paid for the past year by the fire insurance companies in Canada, the figures being kindly furnished us by the companies in advance of the statements appearing some weeks later in the Government insurance report. As usual, we carry forward the results to the business for each of the five previous years, thus affording an interesting and useful comparison for six years. The general result shows that fire underwriting in Canada, so far as losses indicate, was less profitable by about one and a half per cent. than in 1891. A considerable increase in the aggregate business is shown, the 1892 premiums being \$6,251,480 and the loss paid \$4,171,375, as compared with 1891 premiums of \$6,251,297 and losses of \$3,871,464. The general loss ratio for 1892 was 63.46 and for 1891 61.93—a difference against the former year of 1.53 per cent. It will be noticed that the business of the Canadian companies shows a falling off, while that of the British and American companies shows considerable gains, which of course is accounted for by the transfer of the Citizens to the Guardian and the Royal Canadian to the Alliance. The Canadian companies show for 1892 a total of \$930,483 premiums received and \$654,779 losses paid, the ratio being 70.36 as against 63.01 in 1891. The British companies received in premiums \$4,978,760 and paid for losses \$3,010,136 giving a ratio of 61.69 against 61.77 in 1891. The American companies received in premiums \$764,181 and paid for losses \$506,546, the ratio of loss being 66.26 as compared with 60.80 in 1891. It will thus be seen that while the average of the British companies was a fraction less than for the previous year, the Canadian and American companies show an increased loss ratio,

tolerably large, and easily accounting for the increase of 1.53 in the general average. But one year of the past six years shows as high a loss ratio as 1892, viz., 1887, when the general ratio was 65.66. Let us hope that 1893 may deal more kindly with fire insurance and that at its close we may record a decided improvement.

LIFE INSURANCE IN CANADA IN 1892.

Following will be found the general results to the life business of 1892 in Canada for the companies named, and a comparison with the new business of 1891. The figures for 1892 have kindly been furnished direct by the companies:—

COMPANY.	New Insurance issued and taken 1891.	New Insurance issued and taken 1892.	Total Insurance in force at end of 1892.	Total Net Premiums received in 1892.
Canadian Cos..	\$	\$	\$	
Canada Life*....	4,959,300	5,475,000	59,378,937	1,708,998
Confederation ...	2,841,500	3,393,443	22,562,211	698,957
Dominion	402,000	508,300	1,120,390	30,111
Federal	1,731,500	1,882,000	10,564,893	230,994
London	909,172	1,109,858	3,012,735	105,469
Manufacturers...	2,010,600	2,007,250	3,136,989	212,242
North American..	2,294,933	2,360,300	2,053,080	368,862
Ontario Mutual..	2,428,950	2,651,000	16,122,191	503,389
Sun Life*.....	4,012,517	6,373,650	23,901,047	960,420
Temp. & General.	1,464,000	1,563,200	4,543,176	108,221
Total.....	23,054,372	27,324,201	161,795,653	4,927,724
British Cos.....				
British Empire...	789,087
London & Lanc..	955,900	11,250,000	17,300,000	10,974
Standard.....	1,050,700	1,506,516	13,815,680	479,388
Total.....	2,795,687	2,756,516	21,115,680	690,362

* Total Business. † Approximate.

PASTE THIS LIST IN YOUR HAT.

The burning recently of the new World's Fair Hotel at Harvey, a suburb of Chicago, has served to unearth a nest of wildcat fire insurance concerns whose policies, so far as most of them are concerned, are worth exactly what the paper on which they are printed will sell for by the pound. This class of felines work "on the quiet," and cultivate fields a long way from home. That Canadian agents may be on their guard against the wily circulars of any of the concerns referred to, we append the names and ostensible location:—

Pennsylvania Mutual Fire, of Columbia, Pa.; Safety Mutual of Sioux City, Ia.; Davenport Mutual, of Davenport, Ia.; State of Virginia, of Alexandria, Va.; United States Fire, of Charlestown, W. Va.; Commonwealth Fire of Montgomery, W. Va.; Underwriters' Mutual, of Sioux City, Ia.; Traders' of Charlestown, W. Va.; Washington Union, of Cleveland; Western, of Toledo; Old Dominion, of Portsmouth, Va.; Reliance, of Berkley Springs, W. Va.; Commercial Fire, of Memphis, Tenn.; Central Ohio, of Toledo; Indiana Underwriters', of Indianapolis; Sandusky, of Toledo; Farmers' and Mechanics', of Alexandria, Va.; Central, Parkersburg, W. Va.; Wytheville, of Wytheville, Va.; Crescent, of Cleveland; Reserve, of Cleveland; German American, of Richmond, Va.; Columbia National, of Philadelphia; Home, of Burlington, W. Va.; Empire of Huntington, W. Va.; Lumbermen's of Berkley Springs, W. Va.; National Mutual of Council Bluffs, Iowa; Cascade, of Seattle, Wash.; Washington Fire and Marine, of Charlestown, W. Va.; Susquehanna Mutual, of Harrisburg, Pa.