NOTES AND ITEMS.

The annual report of the Superintendent of Insurance for the State of New York is always an interesting study, and that just issued, dealing with fire and marine only, maintains the character of previous reports issued by the department.

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That the business of 1899 was disastrous is shown by the first exhibit to which we direct attention. It is the table showing the "excess of fire losses incurred and estimated expenses over fire premiums received."

Classification.

Companies belonging to	No.	Excess.
New York State	39	$1,615,256.51
Other States	53	1,324,224.41
Other Countries	30	2,409,447.04
	122	$5,348,927.96

* * *

Twenty-six New York companies, sixteen companies of other States and four foreign companies of other countries, show respectively an excess of fire premiums received over fire losses incurred and estimated expenses of $168,412.00, $75,665.11, and $34,679.20; total $278,806.31; which deducted from the amount shown in the above table will give a net excess of fire losses incurred and estimated expenses over fire premiums received of $5,070,121.65.

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Of course, the most noticeable feature of this brief story of a year's business told in figures is the large proportion of the loss borne by the foreign companies. From a comparison of the business of 1898 with the business of 1899, we get another view of the depressing experience of the United States branches of foreign fire companies, transacting business in New York States:—

Foreign Fire Companies—United States Branches.

	1898.	1899.
Number of Companies	32	37
Assets	$ 71,007,848	$ 74,719,703
Liabilities	38,561,742	42,690,684
Excess of Assets	32,446,106	30,965,591
Premiums received	40,812,170	43,643,450
Total Receipts	43,047,237	46,096,904
Losses Paid	24,413,817	30,406,733
Total Disbursements	39,506,300	46,474,688
Risks in force	6,348,053,407	6,921,648,193

* * *

The foreign marine companies doing business in the State were more fortunate than their brethren of the fire department. The year's business of the marine underwriters exhibits very slight variation from that of the previous year, as the following table will show:—

	1898.	1899.
Net Surplus	$4,492,732	$4,505,838
Total Receipts	4,750,189	4,501,391
Total Disbursements	4,060,147	4,070,246

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From a table showing the amount and character of the assets of United States branches of so-called foreign companies doing business in New York at the close of 1899, we cull the figures given as the total gross assets of the following companies:—

Company.	Total gross assets.
Alliance	863,912.09
Atlas	1,065,657.49
British America	1,215,253.29
Caledonian	1,952,119.29
Commercial Union	3,780,414.95
Imperial	1,938,375.74
Lancashire	2,300,706.81
Law, Union & Crown	687,802.39
Lion	874,014.21
Liverpool & London & Globe	9,425,667.88
London Assurance	1,673,419.57
London and Lancashire	2,861,661.90
Manchester	1,789,925.83
North British	4,117,454.35
Northern	2,675,760.88
Norwich Union	2,410,626.49
Palatine	2,637,777.33
Phoenix	2,892,251.05
Royal	7,240,882.40
Royal Exchange	1,245,826.08
Scottish Union	4,063,484.41
Sun	2,616,934.63
Union Assurance	1,540,793.23
Western	1,854,554.94

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The total gross assets held in the United States of the British and foreign fire companies doing business in New York at the close of the year is stated in the report under review as being $73,656,203.29.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

TORONTO LETTER.

No Dissolution of the Toronto Board in Sight.—The British America Increases its Capital.—The Adjourned Quarterly Meeting of C. F. U. A.—Proposed Reduction of Rates.

Dear Editor.—There will be no wake just yet. The Toronto Board of Fire Underwriters had held the Annual Meeting, and the smooth surface of its everyday existence is as yet unruffled by any really earnest concerted endeavor to overturn the edifice, whose foundations were well and truly laid in years gone by. The skies above it are still blue and smiling, and there are no signs of immediate dissolution. The Agenda submitted at the late meeting was perhaps more scant and slender than any of its predecessors, and showed signs of "filling," for the sake of effect, rather than for utility or urgency. This may be a good, rather than a bad symptom, as showing the work of the organization to be daily well done by the officials of the Board, and by the fortnightly meetings of the Board, thus leaving little of moment to bring before a general meeting. This is well.

The British America Assurance Company, at its Annual Meeting just held, decided to increase its capital by an additional $250,000. The present capital of $750,000 having all been paid up, this increase as allowed under its charter will greatly augment the underwriting facilities of this favorite company, and give added security to its policy-holders. No doubt the large business connections of the company both in Canada, and in the United States will enable it to easily earn the additional dividend payable on this new issue. Separate and distinct as are the business affairs and underwriting contracts of each company, it is very certain that the Western and British America working under the same President and Vice-President, Messrs. Cox and Kenny, largely derive benefit from this excellent official co-operation and experience, as well as a larger influence in the insurance field by going side by side, and affiliated, into their business activities.