
 FIRE AND INLAND MARINE INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Of the thirty (30) companies transacting Fire or Inland Marine Insurance at the end of the year 1880, two retired during 1881, namely, the Dominion of Hamilton, which transferred its business to the Fire Insurance Association of London, and the Merchants' Marine of Montreal, which ceased business. Only one new company, the City of London Fire Insurance Company (Limited) of London, England, was admitted during the year; this company had hardly completed its organization in Canada by the close of the year, and does not appear in this Report as having done business. Of these twenty-eight active companies, nine (9) were Canadian, fifteen (15) were British, and four (4) American. Since the close of the year 1881, another company has retired, the Canada Fire and Marine of Hamilton, having re-insured in the Citizens' of Montreal, and another British company, the Scottish Union and National Insurance Company of Glasgow, has been admitted.

Inland Marine Insurance was transacted by four Canadian and two American companies, and Ocean Marine Insurance by only three of the licensed companies—this class of business having apparently been dropped by the Phenix of Brooklyn, and the Anchor Marine—the bulk of this business being transacted by companies which do not report to this Department.

FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA, 1881.

In 1880 we had to note the most prosperous year for Fire Insurance on record; in 1881 we have to record the most disastrous (with the two exceptions of 1870 and the year of the St. John conflagration, 1877). The loss rate has reached 83·94, which has been exceeded only on the two occasions above stated. The city of Quebec* was the scene of an extensive conflagration on the 8th June which swept over the districts of St. Jean and St. Louis, and is estimated to have destroyed three millions of property. The losses in this fire paid by the companies amounted to \$800,736, of which a large portion (\$362,502) fell to the share of the Quebec Fire Assurance Company. It is much to the credit of this company that it was able to meet its losses promptly and in full, not leaving a single claim against it unsatisfied at the close of the year. The other companies suffered in various amounts as detailed below.† The

* This unfortunate city has been visited by no less than six conflagrations within the past thirty-six years. In May and June, 1845, two fires swept away two-thirds of the suburbs of St. Roch and St. Jacques, destroying four millions of property; on the 14th October, 1866, one and a-half millions were destroyed in the districts of St. Roch and St. Sauveur; on the 24th May, 1870, a loss of six hundred thousand dollars occurred in St. Roch's; on the 30th May, 1876, the district of St. Louis lost a million; and lastly, on the 3th June, 1881, three millions were destroyed, making a total of over ten millions sacrificed in this city alone.

† Losses paid for the fire in Quebec of 8th June, 1881:—

Quebec	\$362,501 56
North British	56,569 80
Liverpool and London and Globe	45,796 00
Royal Canadian	43,691 17