

LONDON AND LANCASHIRE FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

In this issue we publish the 43rd annual report of the London and Lancashire Fire Insurance Company.

In presenting this report to the shareholders at the annual meeting the chairman said: "I feel sure when you bear in mind the serious fires which confronted us at the beginning of the year, the result which you have before you of our operations in 1904 will be exceedingly gratifying."

This gratification does not arise from the year's results being less adverse than might have been expected from a year of conflagrations, but is justified by these results having been satisfactory in a general sense. The general manager, Mr. Rutter, said, "We have been prosperous, we have been doing so well that I have heard it alleged that it must be one of the easiest things imaginable to conduct an insurance company." But he went on to remark the manager had his anxieties besides those caused by conflagrations.

The net fire premiums in 1904 were \$6,599,340, and net losses \$3,599,045, the loss ratio being 54.5 per cent. The fire premiums in previous year were \$6,193,847, showing the year's increase to have been \$405,493.

THE MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA.

Mr. Thomas Fyshe is understood to have severed his connection with the Merchants' Bank of Canada, of which he has for some years been general manager, which is in accordance with the arrangements made that have already been outlined. He will receive his full salary for two and a half years and full retiring pension to which he would have been entitled, had he remained with the Bank of Nova Scotia.

Future arrangements have apparently not been decided upon by the directors, but in the meantime Mr. E. F. Hebden, superintendent of branches, who has been associated with the bank for many years, no doubt will take full charge of its affairs. Mr. Hebden is a most capable, experienced and popular official.

MANITOBA FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

Messrs. Ridout, Szeliski, & Strickland have been appointed special agents of the Manitoba Fire Assurance Company for Toronto. The policies of the Manitoba are guaranteed by the Liverpool & London & Globe Insurance Company which places it practically among those in the front rank of fire companies.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS BANK.

The following highly satisfactory statement of the Eastern Townships Bank has been issued for the half year ending 15th May last.

The paid-up capital of this bank is \$2,500,000, and reserve fund \$1,500,000. The profits for past half-year were equal to nearly 13 ½ per cent. on the paid-up capital. The business of the Montreal branch is prospering under Mr. Austen's management.

Balance to profit and loss account, 15th November, 1904..	30,217 74
Profits for the half year ended 15th May, 1905, after deducting charges of management, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts..	167,185 33
Premiums received on new stock..	14,055 00
	<u>\$211,458 07</u>
91st Dividend, 4 per cent., payable 3rd July, 1905..	99,986 40

Balance of profit and loss carried forward..\$111,471 67

SUMMARIZED GENERAL STATEMENT, 15th MAY, 1905.

Quick Assets.

Gold and silver coin and Dominion Government bills in bank vaults..	\$939,594 19
Deposit with Dominion Government for security of general bank note circulation..	100,000 00
Amount due from other banks in Canada, Great Britain and the United States, including bills and cheques, all payable on demand..	1,278,702 49
Dominion, Provincial and other marketable bonds, debentures and stocks, held for investment and reserve..	582,839 62
Call loans, repayable on demand, and specially secured, and specially secured by bonds and stocks..	301,079 14

(Quick assets held for immediate demands)	\$3,202,215 44
Loans and discounts..	12,271,740 66
Overdue loans and debts (loss provided for)..	73,228 94
Bank premises and furniture, reduced from cost to meet present value..	408,248 90
Other real estate and assets..	79,331 44
(Total assets)..	<u>\$16,034,765 22</u>

Liabilities.

To the public..	\$11,770,692 60
Balance surplus over liabilities to the public, represented in capital, reserve and unused profit..	\$4,264,072 58

J. MACINNON.
General Manager.

CHANGES IN THE CONDUCTING OF FIRE INSURANCE.

Fire insurance is being subjected to new conditions by the progress made in providing preventive appliances against fire. A century ago, the commercial use of steam was in its infancy and electricity was only a scientific curiosity. Had one spoken in those days of a 10 or 20 story building it would have excited derisive allusions to the tower of Babel. Were some old underwriters to return to earth, they would be amazed to hear insurance clerks discuss the hazard charge for exposure, for height, defective walls, etc.