CANADIAN FIRE RECORD

(*Specially compiled by The Chronicle.*)

FIRES AT WINNIPEG.

By the fire which destroyed the Riverview Hotel, Winnipeg, on the 5th instant, the following Companies are interested:—Aetna, $2,500; Alliance, $2,500; Employers, $2,500; Guardian, $5,000; London Assurance, $5,000; Liverpool & London & Globe, $5,000; London & Lancashire, $2,500; Firemen's Fund, $5,000; Niagara, $5,000; North America, $2,500; National Union, $2,500; St. Paul, $2,500. Total, $42,500.

By the fire which occurred on January 31st on the premises of Chebrier & Sons, Winnipeg, insurance is as follows:—

On Stock—Aetna, $6,000; Alliance, $1,000; American, $5,000; British America, $10,000; British Crown, $5,000; British Dominions, $5,000; Canadian, $1,500; Continental, $5,000; Continental of Winnipeg, $7,500; Dominion, $1,000; Globe Indemnity, $17,500; Home, $5,000; North America, $5,000; London Guarantee, $5,000; London Mutual, $6,000; Millers National, $1,500; Minnesota Und., $5,000; Mount Royal, $5,000; National-Ben Franklin, $1,500; National of Hartford, $12,500; National of Paris, $5,000; Northern, $2,500; Ocean, $6,500; Phoenix of London, $6,500; Provincial, $1,200; Quebec, $5,000; Queen, $2,500; Royal Exchange, $5,000; Scottish Union, $4,000; Springfield, $10,000; Union, $5,000; Western, $2,500. Total, $165,200. Loss, total.

On Building—Occidental, $35,000. Loss, total.

FIRE AT BELLEVILLE, ONT.

By the fire which occurred on the 11th instant, on the premises of Quick & Robertson, at Belleville, Ont., the following companies are interested:—Liverpool & London & Globe, $4,500; Gore Mutual, $2,500; Mount Royal, $2,000; Waterloo Mutual, $1,500; Wellington, $1,000; Acadia, $3,000; National-Ben Franklin, $1,000; Fidelity Phoenix, $4,000; Phoenix of London, $2,500; Phoenix of Hartford, $1,500; Hand in Hand, $5,500; Dominion, $2,500; Merchants, $2,500; Hartford, $2,000; Economical, $2,000; Canadian, $1,000; Quen City, $3,000; London Mutual, $3,000; Insurance Company of North America, $2,000; Queen, $1,000; Commercial Union, $3,000. Total, $51,000.

FIRE AT GREY NUNNERY, MONTREAL.

The top storeys of the west wing of the Grey Nunnery, Montreal were destroyed on the night of the 14th instant. It is feared that almost fifty infants have perished. Insurance as follows:—Royal, $50,000; Queen, $25,000; Liverpool & London & Globe, $25,000; Phœnix of London, $35,000; North America, $25,000; Guardian, $20,000; Scottish Union, $20,000; Fidelity Phenix, $10,000; Mutuelle de Charite, $10,000; Total $220,000.

CORNWALL, ONT.—School building at Newington burned, February 7. Loss about $3,000, with small insurance.

With reference to present conditions in the municipal bond market, and the necessity of making arrangements to meet maturing obligations, it is suggested that in cases where municipalities are unable to market new issues for the purpose of meeting existing obligations, that the Dominion Government may lend the necessary funds to enable the municipalities to tide over present conditions.

THE AETNA LIFE'S REPORT.

Particularly striking figures in regard to new business and increase in business in force are reported for 1917 by the Aetna Life Insurance Company, of Hartford, Connecticut, indicating that this fine old Company took vigorous advantage of the favorable conditions existing in the life insurance field last year. New insurance paid for and in course of collection amounted to $193,817,782, a gain of no less than $85,600,000 upon the new business of 1916, which itself was $36,000,000 lager than the new business of the year preceding. Business in force was increased by $105,370,626—a very satisfactory figure in a company of the Aetna's age—to $572,916,282. The gain in this item during 1916 was $60,000,000. The premium income was increased over that of 1916 by $6,768,123. During the year the company paid to policyholders a sum of $19,875,699, representing an average daily payment of over $54,450. Since its organization in 1850 the Aetna Life has paid policyholders the vast sum of $318,710,609.

The balance sheet shows an exceedingly substantial position. Assets were increased during the year by $9,285,820 and now aggregate $140,584,445. Of these assets, $47,508,459 are represented by stocks and bonds, $61,990,138 by mortgages and $12,091,876 by policy loans. These last show an increase of only some $250,000, following a slight decrease in 1916. The amortised value of bonds and market value of stocks at December 31st, 1917, less assets not admitted, was $3,073,045 in excess of their book value.

The liabilities include a reserve on life, endowment and term policies of $101,544,616, a special reserve of $1,448,009 and a reserve for a special class of policies and for dividends to policyholders payable in 1918 of $3,621,339. Adequate provision is also made for the liabilities of the Company on account of its steadily progressive accident, health and liability business. Unearned premiums on account of this business are calculated at $5,206,803, and there is reserved for liability claims, $5,968,462. After this careful calculation of liabilities, there is a surplus to policyholders of $18,529,172.

Established in Canada over half a century, the Aetna Life is held in high reputation throughout the Dominion, and an extensive Canadian business is transacted. The Company has been a substantial investor in the Canadian war loans—action which has naturally commended it the more to the Company's many Canadian policyholders. The old established firm of Messrs. T. H. Christmas & Sons, 160 St. James Street, manage the Aetna Life's affairs in Montreal, where an increasing business of high grade is transacted.

STATE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION FOR ALBERTA.

It seems that Alberta will fall into line with the other Canadian provinces which have made workmen's compensation a Government monopoly. The commission appointed last summer to investigate the subject, has now presented a report in the form of a draft bill, providing for a government system of workmen's compensation, covering all industries protected by the Act now in force, and making provision for the payment of immediate medical aid and of compensation for industrial diseases. The scheme would be administered by a board of three members, and come into force, it is suggested, on August 1st next.