

INSURANCE.

Insurance Statistics.—Insurance companies doing business throughout the Dominion of Canada are licensed by the Dominion Government under acts administered by an Insurance Department under the Minister of Finance. The insurance statistics in Tables 58-81, which are restricted to companies doing business under license from the Dominion Government and do not therefore include the business of companies operating under license from the Provincial Governments, are compiled from the Reports of the Superintendent of Insurance, and are divided into three classes relating (1) to insurance against fire; (2) to life insurance and (3) to insurances of a miscellaneous character covering risks of accident, guarantee, employer's liability, sickness, burglary, hail, steam boilers, tornado, weather, inland transportation, automobiles, sprinkler leakage, live stock and title. They refer in all cases to the calendar year.

Complete and final statistics of the Insurance Department are available for the year 1915 and 1916 in respect of fire insurance and insurance other than fire and life, as given in Tables 58 and 59 and 76-81. For life insurance the figures are complete and final up to and including the year 1915; but for 1916 they are taken from the "Abstract of Statements of Insurance Companies in Canada," issued subject to correction on March 5, 1917. Table 67 is new, and has been added to show the provincial distribution of the net premiums written and net losses paid by Canadian, British and United States companies, respectively.

Fire Insurance.—Fire insurance was carried on in 1916 by 87 companies, as compared with 88 companies in 1915. Of the 87 companies in 1916, 25 were Canadian, 27 British, 31 United States and four French, these numbers being the same as for 1915, except that there were 32 companies in the United States instead of 31. The gross amount of fire policies, new and renewed, taken during the year 1916, was \$3,418,238,680, which is greater by \$306,685,777 than the amount taken in 1915. Premiums charged in 1916 amounted to \$37,231,691, as compared with \$36,048,345 in 1915. The net amount at risk in 1916 was \$3,720,058,236.

Life Insurance.—The business of life insurance in Canada was transacted in 1915 by 44 active companies, including 26 Canadian, seven British, one Colonial and ten United States. During 1915 and the latter part of 1914 the life companies were faced with difficulties such as have never before been experienced in Canada. On the outbreak of war, they were confronted with an immediate depreciation in all classes of securities, a complete demoralization of security markets and a prospective large increase in claims arising out of the war. While these difficulties were recognized during the latter part of 1914, the seriousness of the conflict was perhaps not fully realized until 1915, and with the indications which the events of that year gave of a prolonged struggle and of the necessity of further Canadian contingents, the companies were forced to modify their practices in respect of the insurance of enlisted men. The provision made by the companies generally to meet the changed conditions is described in Vol. II (Life Insurance Companies) of the Report for 1915 of the Superintendent of Insurance,