

the Treasury Board, to engage in any and all other classes of insurance business, provided separate funds (not separate assets) and accounts are maintained in respect of the life insurance business and in respect of the other classes of insurance business transacted. Before commencing any new classes of business, an initial fund is to be set up, the amount to be fixed by the Treasury Board, depending on the number and nature of the additional classes of business to be undertaken, but not less than \$50,000. For the purpose of setting up this initial fund, a life company may transfer thereto any amount to the credit of the shareholders' account in excess of paid up capital; also twenty-five p.c. of the surplus, but not exceeding \$100,000, (allowance being made for contingent allotments and accrued dividends to policyholders), in the life insurance fund. If any profit should be made on the additional classes of business, the life fund is to participate therein in the proportion of the amount so transferred from the life fund to the total amount transferred. Any fund so established may be liquidated under the Winding-up Act as though the company transacted no other class of business and the capital stock of the company subscribed (paid and unpaid) before the date of the separation of funds is liable only in respect of the business transacted before the separation of funds.

A marked feature of life insurance business during the last few years has been a very low death rate. This appears to be in some way a consequence of the high death rate due to war strain and influenza of the few preceding years.

The progress of life insurance in Canada may be studied from the tables appended.

Life Insurance Statistics.—The business of life insurance was transacted in Canada in 1923 by 56 active Dominion companies, including 25 Canadian, 15 British and 16 foreign companies.

As shown by the historical statistics of Table 78, the life insurance business in Canada has expanded from very small beginnings, the total life insurance in force in Dominion companies in 1869 being only \$35,680,082, while in 1923 it was \$3,433,489,876, the amount per head of the estimated population of Canada having more than doubled since 1916—an evidence of the general recognition of the fact that, in view of the higher prices of commodities, a larger amount of life insurance is necessary for the adequate protection of dependants. Notable also from these historical statistics is the fact that in this field the British companies, which were the leaders in 1869, have fallen far behind the Canadian and the foreign companies. The total amount of new insurance effected during the year 1923 was \$561,182,427, while the premiums paid were \$117,811,926, as compared with \$106,886,700 in 1922.

In Table 79 detailed statistics are given of the business of Canadian, British and foreign companies respectively, by companies, in 1923, while Table 80 is a summary showing the business of Canadian, British and foreign companies for the past five years. Table 81 gives the insurance death-rate by classes of companies; Tables 82, 83 and 84 show respectively the assets, liabilities and cash income and expenditure of Canadian and other life insurance companies for the years 1919 to 1923. Statistics of Dominion fraternal insurance are given in Table 85, and of Dominion and provincial insurance combined in Table 86, which shows that on December 31, 1923, the total life insurance in force in Canada was \$3,811,387,309.