

While the record of war mortality experienced by the life insurance companies operating in Canada has not yet been fully compiled, it is probable that the following figures will be found to be fairly reliable; they relate to the war claims incurred on Canadian policies during the period 1939 to 1945, inclusive:—

Year	<i>Settled by Payment of Full Sum Assured</i>		<i>Settled by Payment of Limited Benefit Only</i>		<i>Total Claims</i>	
	<i>Policies</i>	<i>Face Value</i>	<i>Policies</i>	<i>Face Value</i>	<i>Policies</i>	<i>Face Value</i>
	No.	\$	No.	\$	No.	\$
1939.....	50	100,000	Nil	—	50	100,000
1940.....	310	600,000	60	100,000	370	700,000
1941.....	920	1,600,000	200	500,000	1,120	2,100,000
1942.....	2,630	3,500,000	750	1,700,000	3,380	5,200,000
1943.....	3,900	4,300,000	1,570	3,100,000	5,470	7,400,000
1944.....	7,770	7,900,000	4,740	8,200,000	12,510	16,100,000
1945.....	6,960	7,000,000	4,460	8,200,000	11,420	15,200,000
TOTALS...	22,540	25,000,000	11,780	21,800,000	34,320	46,800,000
Deduction under limited benefit clause.....	—	—	—	20,300,000	—	20,300,000
GRAND TOTALS...	—	25,000,000	—	1,500,000	—	26,500,000

The following additional data respecting the two World Wars, derived from sources believed to be accurate, are of interest:—

<i>Item</i>	<i>First World War</i>	<i>Second World War</i>
Duration.....	4 years, 3 months	5 years, 11 months
Number of Canadians enlisted.....	620,000	1,003,000
Number of Canadians sent overseas.....	418,000	555,000
Financial cost to Canada.....	\$1,700,000,000	\$20,256,000,000 ¹
Canadian claims paid by insurance companies in Canada.....	\$20,500,000	\$26,500,000

¹Sept. 10, 1939, to Mar. 31, 1947.

Fire and Casualty Insurance

Fire Underwriting Experience.—This review of the fire and casualty business in Canada follows that appearing in the 1942 edition of the Canada Year Book which brought the record of the business up to and including the year 1940. This article will review the figures to the end of 1945 so that the story for the decade which saw the end of the depression period and all of the Second World War period will be complete.

The experience of fire insurance has, in the view of the trade, a traditional relation to the activity or otherwise of general business; that view is that a period of depression is a period of high fire loss and vice versa, and there are statistics, as well as other considerations, to support that view. If by moral hazard is meant an inclination to incendiarism, it is obvious that anyone so inclined is more likely to yield in that direction if the business carried on in his insured building is bringing him a loss instead of a normal profit but, even if the term implies no criminal intent but merely an involuntary lessening of ordinary caution, a period of inactivity or unprofitable business naturally brings a moral hazard making for high fire loss.