

sistent long liquidation and bear pressure staged a brisk recovery to Rs 167-12 on Thursday.

Early easiness was attributed to reports of beneficial rains and lack of foreign enquiry in groundnut oil and linseed oil. Technical considerations also warranted a heavy setback in cantor futures, the rise in the previous week being rather steep. The export quota for castor oil works out to about 10,000 tons for the October-December quarter. The stock position in castor is very tight. But the outlook for castor futures depends mainly on the trend of overseas prices. It is feared importers may reduce their quotations in view of the large quota. America quoted about 20½ cents a lb. for commercial quality oil, against the previous week's high of 22 cents. Even at the current level, margin on exports is fairly good.

Dalai Street was in a jubilant mood last week. Most industrial shares were marked up to the highest levels since March when the corrective phase started. The lead was given by steels which were concerned in bull manipulation induced by hopes of an early development loan, amalgamation of Scob and the Indian Iron and Steel Co. and growing belief that Tatas will raise dividends on Deferred and Ordinary shares to Rs 115 and Rs 21 respectively.

Cotton mill shares and miscellaneous counters also recorded impressive gains but they were pared near the close on considerable selling which was pronounced in textiles. The setback on Thursday was attributed generally to end-account adjustments. Professional bulls in Tata Steels were also reported sellers in textiles to protect themselves against a possible recession if dividends fall below expectations.

Impressive performance of the Tata Steel Company in the year to March is common knowledge. Total despatches amounted to 7.97 lakh tons of steel and 1.18 lakh tons of pig iron and yielded a revenue of Rs 28.58 crores against Rs 27.43 crores in the previous year. Dividend, however, is essentially a matter of policy. General expectations range between Rs 108 and Rs 115 for Deferred shares and between Rs 20 and Rs 21 on Ordinary shares.

The renewed setback in cotton mill shared on Thursday suggests Continued lack of confidence in higher levels for them. In case dividend expectations in Tata Steels "materi"

alise, the market may be expected to stage a fair recovery from the current levels. But it bears repetition that it is not advisable to follow the rise in an advanced stage of the corrective phase in a bear market. Disappointment with Tata dividend

could easily hasten the end of the corrective phase because ' both the amplitude and duration warrant an early resumption of the major bear phase. It would be risky, however, to forecast the extent of the subsequent move.

### Company Notes

## British India General Insurance

THE report of the 'British India General Insurance Company Limited for the year ending 1951 shows satisfactory progress. The company has been able to transfer sizable amounts to the Profit and Loss Account, especially in Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous Insurance Departments, while in the Life Department, Rs 8,900 and Rs 25,000 have been transferred to the closed account and current account respectively from the Profit and Loss Account.

The Fire, Marine and Miscellaneous Insurance Departments show the results during the year under review as in the table at the bottom of the page.

The ratio of funds to premium income is highest in the case of Marine Department where losses paid and outstanding are as high as 62.58 per cent of the premium income. They are the lowest in Fire Department where the net losses paid and outstanding work out to only 26.94 per cent of the premium income. It is however satisfactory to note that this kind of liability is fully covered by the Departmental Funds.

The premium income during the year under review shows all round improvement. Compared to 1950, it is higher by about Rs 6.5 lakhs in Fire, Rs 1.22 lakhs in Marine and Rs 2.91 lakhs in Miscellaneous Insurance Departments. The total premium income of Rs 64.8 lakhs of these departments is highest recorded by the company in the last 10 years.

The Life Department of the company is conveniently divided in two accounts—a closed account and a current account. The total busi-

ness in force in the closed account at the end of 1951 was Rs 71.24 lakhs under 3,914 policies. At the close of the year, the Life Assurance Fund stood at Rs 37.78 lakhs and Life Department Investments at Rs 44.91 lakhs.

In the current account, during the year, the company received 1,866 proposals for assuring a total sum of Rs 64 lakhs out of which 1,522 proposals resulted into policies for sums assuring Rs 57.78 lakhs. The total business in force at the end of the year amounted to Rs 117.91 lakhs out of which Rs 12.31 lakhs has been re-insured. The Life Assurance Fund stands at Rs 7.57 lakhs after transferring Rs 25,000 from Profit and Loss Account.

The gross profits for the year subject to taxation amounts to Rs 7.36 lakhs as against Rs 4.05 lakhs in 1950. The provision for taxation at Rs 1½ lakhs is Rs ½ lakh higher than in the previous year. Other appropriations from Profit and Loss Account are Rs 2.33 lakhs to Reserve for Depreciation on securities and about Rs 13 lakhs in all other accounts. The directors recommend payment of dividend at the rate of Re 1 per share, same as in the previous year.

Total investments in General account amount to Rs 46.81 lakhs and in Life account to Rs 50.72 lakhs. Like many other insurance Companies, the book value of the company's investments are above the market value. The investments in the case of the company shows a depreciation of Rs 7 lakhs at the end of the year which has been fully covered by reserve of over Rs 7 lakhs.

(figures in lakhs of Rs.)

Department	Net Premium	Net Losses Paid & Outstanding	(3) as % of (2)	Departmental funds	(5) as % of (2)	Transferred to Profit & Loss A/c.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Fire	3956	1066	26.94	1978	50	557
Marine	501	314	62.58	501	100	37
Miscellaneous	2024	863	42.66	1062	50.5	75

