

**Looking Ahead Fiscally.** Importers of foreign goods into the United Kingdom are "taking Time by the forelock," or rather anticipating his advent, as they are seeking insurance against the possibility of loss by the tariff being changed as a result of the Chamberlain movement. Many English merchants have contracts with foreign exporters extending over a long term of years, so that, were the goods they import subjected to a tariff instead of entering free as at present, the change would entail a loss on the importer. Lloyds are reported to be considering a scheme to cover this prospective risk.

**Industrial Accident Insurance.** Industrial Accident Insurance is reported to be making headway in the Western States. The premiums are paid monthly and varied according to benefits. The best fields are small towns and villages. It is also popular in some parts of Great Britain where industrial insurance has long been established. The labour and expense of collecting monthly premiums is a serious drawback to this class of business, but the way to minimize it is to have a class of solicitors and agents who are associated with business of a similar nature as regards monthly payments. It will take a length of time to acquire business of this class in any locality that would enable collectors to make a fair living out of monthly premiums and, however, closely looked after the work would be very harassing, owing to lapses and delayed payments.

**Mortality of Canadian Parliaments.** The "News" gives the following interesting schedule showing the duration of Parliaments since Confederation:

1st—Nov. 6, 1867 to July 8, 1872—4 years, 9 months, 15 days.

2nd—March 5, 1873 to Jan. 3, 1874—1 year, 4 months.

3rd—March 30, 1874 to Aug. 17, 1878—4 years, 5 months, 24 days.

4th—Feb. 13, 1879 to May 18, 1882—3 years, 5 months, 27 days.

5th—Feb. 8, 1883 to Jan. 15, 1887—4 years, 5 months, 8 days.

6th—April 13, 1887 to Feb. 3, 1891—3 years, 9 months, 28 days.

7th—April 29, 1891 to April 24, 1890—4 years, 11 months, 30 days.

8th—Aug. 19, 1896 to Oct. 9, 1900—4 years, 2 months, 26 days.

As the last elections took place on Nov. 7, 1900, three years will not have elapsed until the 6th proximo.

The average life of a Canadian Parliament appears to be with a fraction of 4 years. Since Confederation only one Parliament, that of 1891, ran its full legal term of five years.

**Prevention of Tuberculosis.** The origin of consumption and its relation to tuberculosis were discussed recently before the Medical Congress at Cassel, Germany, by Prof. von Behring. His theory is that a large portion of mankind is infected in infancy with the germs of tuberculosis derived from cow's milk. He distinguishes between tuberculosis and consumption, persons infected with the former may be years before symptoms of the latter disease appear. He has hopes of a prophylactic being discovered by which immunity from tuberculosis may be secured. So far as reported the paper read by Prof. Van Behring was rather a foreshadowing of what was probably than a precise statement of what was absolutely known. It seems, however, the safer course to use only sterilized milk, for infants especially.

At the Congress of Actuaries Mr. **New British Experience.** George King, F.I.A., read a paper in order to furnish a succinct statement of the extent of the experience, with a few explanations as to its nature, and the principles adopted in compiling it; and to discuss and illustrate very briefly some of the more important characteristics of the new Table compiled. About the year 1893 it came to be felt that the Institute of Actuaries' Experience was passing out of date. It had been drawn from the records of twenty companies, and covered the whole of their history. Therefore many of the lives had come under observation in the early years of the nineteenth century, when social and sanitary conditions existed different from those of the present time. Companies in their valuation reports had often mentioned the results of their individual mortality experience investigations, and it was found that they almost invariably announced mortality falling below that to be expected by the Institute tables; and hence the conclusion was almost inevitable that the mortality prevailing amongst assured lives at the present day is less than was the case in former times. In order to compile the experience, committees were formed respectively by the Institute and the Faculty of Actuaries, which, combined, acted together as a joint committee. A large amount of the work was carried on by correspondence, but periodical meetings of the joint committee were held in London which the Scottish section attended, and at these meetings all important questions were decided. After very careful consideration it was resolved to limit the experience to the thirty years from 1863 to 1893, and to leave out of account all the experience of the earlier days of the companies. In this way it was thought that the rate of mortality prevailing at the present day could be ascertained, and that it would form a much surer basis for actuarial calculations than if it were blended with the experience