LIFE ASSURANCE BUSINESS IN CANADA FOR 1905.

—The life assurance companies transacting business in Canada, report the results for 1905, as on the whole satisfactory. Many of the companies claim substantial increases in amount of business written.

Insurance Law Amendments are proposed in a Bill introduced into the New York State Legislature by Senator Brackett. Among its leading provisions are those making elective instead of appointive the office of superintendent of insurance, making salaries of life insurance officers subject to the written approval of the superintendent of insurance, prohibiting insurance of children under 13, prohibiting tontine or "deferred dividend" insurance, making the list of policy-holders of any life insurance company available for examination by any policy-holder thereof, and limiting investments of insurance companies in a way similar to that which limits investments by savings banks.

These provisions will not be accepted by the Legislature.

Local Fire Dangers.—In dealing with the conditions that prevail in certain cities the Insurance Press remarks, "In all cities conflagration hazards exist through faulty construction and protection of buildings, negligence of property owners in providing protective devices or inadequate supply and distribution of water. The assumptions, therefore, are that the risks of fire are very great in the following cities. A list is given of over 400 cities in the United States and the following in Canada:

Montreal Brantford Ottawa Belleville Peterboro Rerlin Quebec Brockville St. Catharines Chatham St. Johns Galt St. Thomas Glencoe Sherbrooke, Que. Guelph Stratford Hamilton Toronto Hull, Que. Windsor Kingston Woodstock London

The above cities should take warning in time and celebrate the New Year by establishing better fire protection.

ADMIRAL ROJESVENSKY has published a letter in the Novoe Vremya, by official sanction, in which he declares that, "The Admiral of the British fleet allied with the Japanese, had concentrated his forces at Wai-Hai-Wei in expectation of receiving an order to annihilate the Russian fleet if this, the final object of Great Britain, was beyond the power of the Japanese."

It was Admiral Rojestvensky who mistook ordinary fishing vessels off the English coast for Japanese torpedoes, so acute was his vision, so accurate and so sane his judgment. We fear the untortunate Russian Admiral illustrates the ancient

saying, "Whom the gods wish to destroy the first deprive of their wits." He certainly acted like a madman in the North Sea and in the Sea of Japan his fate came. The Russian Government has been asked for explanations. They should declare the Admiral to be rather an object of pity than blame.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA has opened a branch at Cardenas, Cuba.

Hotes and Items.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

Montreal Clearing House.—Total for week ending January 4, 1906—Clearings, \$26,148,043; total for week ending 1905, \$24,734,507; corresponding week 1904, \$17,-411,263; corresponding week 1903, \$22,914,000.

OTTAWA CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending 28th December, 1905—Clearings \$2,135,147; corresponding week last year, \$1,831,380.

The Mutual Life of New York has abolished all its commission agencies, and placed all agents on a salary basis.

THE WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY Of Toronto has secured the schedule of the Mexican Central Railroad Company, which amounts to about \$7,000,000.

THE LONDON AND LANCASHIRE LIFE ASSURANCE COM-PANY recently announced that a half-yearly dividend to December 31, at the rate of 8s 3d. per share per annum (tax free), would be payable on the 1st inst.

Russia's Insurance Companies are in serious trouble caused by the disturbances. Many properties have been burnt by the insurgents, and lives destroyed that were insured. The Czar should have insured his Empire from the dangers of revolution.

THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF EXAMINING PHYSICIANS for Insurance Companies will be held in Berlin from Sept. 11th to 15th, 1906, under the patronage of Dr. Studt, Royal Prussian Minister of Education, Religious and Medical Affairs.

THE STANDARD, BOSTON, has our congratulations on escaping without loss from a fire on its premises. It was well insured. Our contemporary has not missed an issue it its 40 years of publication. May this record never be broken is our New Year's good wish.

"LA PRESSE" deserves to be highly complimented on the excellence of its Christmas number. The illustrations are profuse and well executed, the typography clear, and the reading matter interesting and appropriate to the season. Our contemporary has our good wishes for a prosperous New Year.

THE STANDARD LIFE has made a new departure in South America by erecting its own office building in Montevideo. No other foreign insurance company has invested any of its funds in a building in Uruguay. It will help the Standard to have thus shown confidence in this Republic which is not in the highest credit.

A SPRINKLER ACCIDENT.—The accidental release of an automatic sprinkler system in a Chicago clothing establishment on 27th ult. caused a panic among the 2,000 employes. Men, women and children fought for a chance