

Mr. French was born in Pittsfield, N.H., March 1, 1832. His early business life was spent as general agent of the Connecticut Mutual Life until, in 1869, he secured the charter for and founded the New Hampshire Fire Insurance Company. Since that time his whole time and attention had been devoted to the New Hampshire and its interests. Mr. French was its managing underwriter for thirty years and was vice-president and secretary in May, 1895, when elected to the presidency, succeeding President Weston, deceased.

CANADIAN ENTERPRISE IN DEMERARA AND JAMAICA.—The commercial agent of the Dominion Government in Trinidad has sent out a report stating that a syndicate of Canadian capitalists have acquired the Electric Tramway Co.'s rights in Jamaica and the lighting and tramway services in Georgetown, Demerara, and they also have an option on the electric lighting and tramway of Port of Spain. The application of the Demerara Electric Company for a license to construct and operate electric tramways and lighting plants in the city of Georgetown, Demerara, has been granted upon the terms of the company. The capital stock of the company is \$850,000. The directors are Sir William Van Horne, Senator Drummond, Abner Kingman, James Hutchison and W. B. Chipman, all of Montreal, and Senator McKean and B. F. Pearson, of Halifax, N.S.

A STATEMENT of considerable interest to the insuring public all over Canada comes from Ottawa to the effect that, at the coming session of Parliament, steps are to be taken to compel the assessment and fraternal associations to raise their rates for life insurance to about the same level as demanded by the regular companies. Doubtless the bill will come in for more than an ordinary share of opposition from the many institutions which have been established in Canada during the past twenty-five years. The low rates which these associations have named as the cost of insurance on life policies have been productive of a very large aggregate volume of business, but the great drawback to this form of policy has been the relative lack of security. Assessment and fraternal insurance ventures are not directly controlled by the Dominion Insurance Department, and, as a consequence, policy holders' interests are more or less dependent upon the honesty and efficiency of the managers of these institutions. The records of experience in Canada in life losses as related to premium income among the co-operative concerns has not been of such a character as to strengthen the feeling of stability so necessary in connection with their operation. The past twenty-five years shows a lamentable number of failures among assessment companies, and the government is simply trying to secure to the members of these organizations, through enforcing adequate premium rates, that measure of safety which is to be expected in the life insurance business. In this step we are sure they will have the endorsement of all persons whose interests are not indentified with the office end of the assessment insurance business.—The "Maritime Merchant."

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING FAMILY.—The dominant influence in the astounding progress of the century has been the people who speak the English language, represented by Great Britain and her self-governing

colonies, and by the United States, and their multiplication has been one of its most notable characteristics. When the century began these people numbered only 22,000,000, or 16,000,000 less than the people who spoke German, 12,000,000 less than those who spoke French and 10,000,000 less even than those who spoke Spanish. As the century draws to its close, the people who speak English as their mother-tongue number 127,000,000—an increase of 477 per cent., and a greater number than all the people who speak French and German combined. At the end of the last century there were in these United States only 5,000,000 inhabitants; the census with which this one will terminate will hardly show less than 75,000,000. In the same period the population of the United Kingdom has grown from 16,000,000 to 41,000,000, and the colonists of English race have increased from a few hundred thousand to between eleven and twelve millions. At the beginning of the century the population of the European continent was 170,000,000. At its close the total approaches 343,000,000. Thus, while at the end of the last century, the English-speaking family was outnumbered by the nations of Continental Europe in the proportion of eight to one, it is outnumbered by them to-day in the proportion of 2.7 to 1 only.—"Commercial Bulletin."

CHANGED CONDITIONS OF WAR.—In the early years of the century it seemed as if its history would be shaped by influences which were anything but democratic. The French revolution had ended by devouring its own children and producing Napoleon Bonaparte. The world was enjoying a brief spell of peace—the first in ten years—and it had to thank Bonaparte for the boon. It seemed as if a new equilibrium of Europe had been established, with the power of France and the military genius who directed it as a guarantee that the equilibrium would not be disturbed. Since that illusion was dispelled, one of the most momentous cycles of human history has run its course. War seems even less likely to disappear from the earth than it did then, but there can be no better measure of the progress of the race during these hundred years than the conditions under which war is conducted to-day as contrasted with those which prevailed under Bonaparte. The great Corsican began his career of conquest by promising the naked and ill-fed levies of the revolution a career of indiscriminate plunder: "Rich provinces, great cities, will be in your power. There you will find honor and fame and wealth." The progress of all the centuries had culminated in this, that he who was about to become the foremost man of the world was finding the shortest cut to that eminence in the methods of Attila and Ghengis Khan. It seems like another world to us, that in which the career of Napoleon was possible; the warfare of to-day is not so widely different from his in its weapons and tactics as it is in its regard for humanitarian principles and respect for the rights of non-combatants. The age of conquest is not over, but the practice of licensed brigandage by the soldiers of a great nation belongs to a past from which a great gulf seems to separate the civilization of to-day. The reign of gentler manners, purer laws, is still something to hope and strive for; but it seems all the nearer of attainment because with all its national follies, errors and crimes the nineteenth century has done so much to make the world better and nobler and to bring it nearer to the fulfillment of the great ideal of Christianity.