

agreed that "the determination of such three referees be final and conclusive," the Ministers which succeeded were bound, according to the invariable usage of the Imperial Government, as well as according to honor and good faith, to stake their own existence on procuring the assent of Parliament to the award. As to the quotations from the *Globe*, which are brought forward to disprove our assertion that Mr. Mackenzie bound his Government to abide by the award, we will only remark that the *Gazette* should have given his opinion as to the effect of the orders in Council, and not newspaper articles. On the whole, we may congratulate ourselves that our article has drawn forth such a mild criticism from our able daily contemporary.

#### HOTELS AT SUMMER RESORTS.

Hotelkeepers at the seaside and other summer resorts chose a rather inopportune season to advance prices this year when our American neighbors have begun to feel the edge of a business depression which, however, it is hoped may be warded off or deferred by the unexpected, because late, improvement in the harvest. There are scores of hotelkeepers on both sides of the line whose principal conception of a first-class hotel is the price per day. These men, having been brought up themselves at second or third rate hostleries, or having developed from the frugal simplicity of farm or village life, have but little idea of the modern requirements of a well appointed hotel; and as the high figures charged at really first-class establishments, which they sometimes visit, constitute the principal difference that strikes them, they fancy that by simply increasing prices they can advance their hitherto unpretending though possibly comfortable house into a first place among the hotels of the country. The seaside hotelkeepers who advanced prices some 25 to 30 per cent. the present season, thus driving away a number of their old customers, were glad to fill their empty rooms by the beginning of August with guests at even less than the former rates. Many people who visit summer resorts do not object to paying first-class rates for first-class accommodation, but they do and will object to pay first-class prices for second or third rate fare. For example, no one who can afford it objects to pay the price demanded by the best hotels in the White Mountain and Franconia ranges,—Fabyans, Crawford, Profile, etc., where, although the season is no longer than at the seaside, everything is served and supplied with as good taste as is possible at the best houses of Boston, Montreal or Toronto. It is an old remark that—"It takes a smart man to keep hotel;" it takes more than mere smartness or business ability; the landlord himself must be a man of taste, and able to judge of the requirements of his guests, whatever be their status. Such landlords are not always exclusively to be found in large cities; some of the most successful hotelkeepers we

have ever known carried on business in some of the smaller towns or villages of the Dominion, but it was not because of the "stand" or the structure, but because the proprietor was a man of tact and taste. There are hotels outside of Montreal and Toronto, as well as in these cities, making money for the owners that had ruined the former proprietors. The most deservedly popular hotelkeeper probably in Canada finds himself in the present proportionately quiet season doing a business considerably in advance of that of last year, and there are a few similar exceptions in other places. When a hotel is not paying one of the first causes to look for is in the landlord himself or his partner, where he has one. It is no paradox to remark that the proper man to keep a hotel must be born as well as made.

#### CO-OPERATIVE LIFE ASSURANCE.

In referring to co-operative life assurance, it is obvious that there must be some definition given of what is meant by this expression. It happens that discredit has been brought upon a word that otherwise is full of intelligent and valuable meaning, by the misuse which has been made of it by certain disreputable persons in the United States. All life assurance is, as a matter of fact, co-operative; but it has been reserved for speculators in a kind of business which is nothing more or less than an organized swindle to render the very name of co-operative life assurance "a hissing and a mockery" throughout all the nations of the earth. It has been contended by the managers of these fraudulent institutions, that they are based upon principles which have been in existence in Great Britain for centuries, and which have been successfully carried out by many large and powerful associations in this country, not to speak of societies which are obviously unsound, and which can never by any possible stroke of luck recover themselves. Reference has been made to institutions like the Odd Fellows, Foresters, and kindred associations, which have not merely power to retrace any false steps made in the past, but the resolution to do so. It must be premised, however, that co-operative assurance on what is called the assessment plan is not practised by these societies. The assessment plan has been found by experience to be cumbrous, expensive, and unreliable. It is, therefore, not used in this country, in which it may be observed, every possible kind of insurance has been tried and tested to the uttermost. The assessment plan of assurance is the name which should be substituted for co-operative, and, in future, it would be well that this definition should be drawn. But how has it fared with even those large societies which were doing their best to ensure the solvency of their reserves, and which have been working with this intention for so long? As a matter of fact, it was discovered some years ago, after careful investigation, that the majority of the Friendly Societies of Great Britain were more or less insolvent,—that is to say, they were insolvent as regards their contingent liabilities, although up to now they have been able to meet all claims as they fall due. Fortunately, these societies anticipated the danger before any strain was actually experienced, and after a careful review of their position the proper steps were taken to bring them into a solvent condition.

As an illustration of how true this view of the case is, we may refer to a speech recently delivered by Mr. G. H. PINCKARD, an actuary of great experience, who has found it necessary to state that the Ancient Order of Foresters, with a revenue of £573,623 and expenditure of £138,404, and which put by during the twelve months £135,224, was yet not in a satisfactory state,—in fact, that the society was insolvent.

As the Odd Fellows had already been reported to be in the same condition, he thought that his hearers should not be downhearted. He further pointed out, that a contribution of the aggregate of £2 from each member would place them in a thoroughly sound condition. Under these circumstances, there was no great difficulty to get over, although they were a million sterling on the wrong side. With half a million members the work was easy, and the average subscriptions had therefore been raised with a view to gradually making both ends meet. The great difference, however, between the Foresters, the Odd Fellows, and the co-operative or assessment companies of the United States is, that the former are honestly and loyally working with the intention of doing the straightforward and proper thing by their members. If they have been misled by defective information, it is an error which experience will rectify, and the consequences of which are now distinctly seen, and in time to permit of their being obviated. This is precisely what the assessment offices in the United States do not do. It is possible that the promotion of the original companies might have been based upon a certain amount of commercial probity; but we have no hesitation in stating, that for many years past not one of these associations has been started with any more intelligible reason than that of filling the pockets of the managers and enjoying a brief but merry existence. When, with all the experience and care taken by the Foresters and Odd Fellows, such mistakes can be made as those shown by recent reports, it is not difficult to understand how the public, who, after all, are the sufferers in the long run, should in the United States have fallen easy victims to the wiles of the managers of these now properly-named graveyard insurance companies. One thing we wish to emphatically repeat, and that is, that the assessment mode of life assurance as practised by these companies in the States is absolutely unknown in this country, and that any person claiming for his society that it is based on similar lines to institutions which have worked successfully in Great Britain, is stating that which is absolutely untrue, and which he probably also personally knows to be false.—*London Insurance Review.*

#### FIRE RECORD.

##### ONTARIO.

*Schomberg*, July 26.—J. W. Hughes' storehouse, store, and dwelling destroyed. The fire spread to P. J. Keena's hotel which was wood, was destroyed with stables and shed. Total loss \$13,000. Hughes was insured for \$8,000, and Keena for \$600, on stock and furniture; none on building. *Orangeville*, Aug. 1.—The brick stables of the Gordon house destroyed with contents. Loss on contents \$8,550, on building \$700; insurance small. *Barrie*, Aug. 7.—The building owned by E. B. Compton, with stock partly burnt. Insurance not known. *Paris*, Aug. 8.—A. J. Halter & Co., button factory, totally destroyed with contents. Insured for \$8,400 in following companies: Queen, \$2,400; Citizens, \$2,600; Phoenix, \$1,600; Waterloo Mutual, \$1,800. Total loss \$10,000. *Toronto*, Aug. 8.—Two small buildings on Dufferin st. destroyed. Insured for \$300 in Scottish Imperial. *Midland*, Aug. 10.—The new mill, with contents and adjoining houses, owned by the British Canadian Lumber Company, totally destroyed. Total loss, \$130,000. The total amount of insurance is \$63,000, of which the Commercial Union hold \$30,000. *Stratford*, July 10.—A large fire broke out here, destroying three houses and a factory, and doing considerable damage to a church. The buildings burned were, one brick and one frame owned by Mr. Osborne, totally destroyed, loss \$3,000; insured for \$1,200 in Perth Mutual; one frame dwelling owned by Mr. Wood, loss \$1,000; uninsured; the Methodist Church, damaged to the extent of \$400;