

prosperous financial institution, as well as by the president of a Toronto fire insurance company on a more recent occasion, might be profitably followed on occasion by the double management of the Sun.

Considering that the company does not own its premises in Montreal, the real estate owned is considerable, being \$70,000, but is about \$3,000 less than in 1883; this we learn, however, is worth considerably more than the sum named. A dividend of 6 per cent on the paid-up capital, \$62,500, was paid the shareholders on the business for the year, or 4 per cent less than in 1883; while the profits to policyholders were \$3,376, against \$9,911 in the previous year.

It is gratifying to note that the death claims in both branches, Life and Accident, are less than in 1883, being \$4,500 and \$2,500 respectively, an evidence of continued care in the selection of lives, a care which should be all the greater owing to the unconditional character of the Sun policies.

We have taken the liberty of thus pointing out a few of the more salient points in the report of the company, in the hope that the management may gird up its loins and put forth renewed efforts towards placing the Sun progressively among the leading life institutions of native origin as well as those who by their large and prudent investments in the country have become no less Canadian in their character.

THE NORTH-WEST REBELLION.

Just as our last issue was going to press the startling news of a rising of the Half-breeds in the vicinity of Prince Albert, in the North-West Territories, was received. From that time to the present there has been constant anxiety as to the fate of the scattered white population in a region where they are surrounded by a great number of Indians and Half-breeds. The first engagement was attended with serious loss of life on the part of the police and volunteers. It is most satisfactory to find that in the emergency that has so suddenly arisen all parties are disposed to co-operate in putting down the rebellion, which is generally attributed to the influence of the notorious Riel, who took such a prominent part in the rebellion of 1869-70. We are inclined to think that even the strongest opponents of the rapid construction of the Canadian Pacific railway will be ready to acknowledge that it was fortunate that the line was run in Canadian territory, north of Lake Superior, and that the work was prosecuted with vigor. It appears that there are only gaps

of about seventy miles, and that the troops that have already proceeded to the front have had but little delay in reaching Winnipeg. In all parts of Quebec and Ontario, officers commanding regiments have volunteered their services, and have undertaken to raise the number of men required.

There has been, naturally enough, a demand from the leader of the opposition for information as to the claims of the Half-breeds, the non-recognition of which, it is assumed, must have led to the rising. It is, however, very doubtful how far it is expedient to discuss that subject at present. It is not pretended that, as regards the Indian tribes, there has been any failure to fulfil the various treaties which are in force; indeed we have no doubt that they have been much more liberally dealt with than what was required by those treaties,—moreover they have not been discontented, although the pernicious influence of Riel has been sufficient to induce them to join his gang. There is a general conviction that the time has arrived when the malcontent Half-breeds must be taught a lesson that will prevent any similar attempt during the settlement of the North-Western territory. It is deeply to be regretted that several valuable lives were lost in the engagement which took place, which certainly seems to have been owing to an error of judgment.

INSOLVENCY MEASURES.

Owing to the very great uncertainty, which prevails as to the fate of the Bill now pending in the House of Commons, and the objections which are entertained by many to the insertion of any provision for the discharge of a bankrupt, there has been a movement set on foot to procure an amendment of the Civil Code of the Province of Quebec. A meeting was held a few days ago in the Corn Exchange, to consider the question, and a series of amendments which we understand were framed by a committee of lawyers, with the assistance of an experienced firm of accountants in the city, were adopted, and a petition, which we shall insert, was agreed to and has been sent round to the wholesale firms for signature. We fear very much that there is little chance of any Insolvency Bill passing the House of Commons. It seems to be generally understood that any Insolvency Bill passed by the Dominion Parliament must contain a provision for the discharge of the bankrupt, and to this the mercantile community are strongly opposed, and, however guarded the new

Bill may be, it will not be likely to give satisfaction to the commercial classes either in Quebec or Ontario. We have received a pamphlet, written by Mr. Clarkson of Toronto, advocating an insolvent Act, and suggesting the establishment of a tribunal for the protection of the interest of creditors. It is possible that this pamphlet, which is a valuable treatise on the question, may induce some of the opponents of discharge under any circumstances, to consent to another trial under the stringent conditions which the author thinks absolutely necessary, but we own that our own impression is that no Bill will pass the House of Commons during the present Session, and it may therefore be desirable that an effort should be made to procure an amendment of the Civil Code.

THE "WIND HAZARD" AND OTHER THINGS.

The earnestness and grave decorum of the proceedings at the recent Insurance Parliament in Toronto, of which a synopsis was given in our issue of last week, found fitting relaxation during the dinner at the Queen's Hotel on Wednesday evening. It was not to be expected that the labors and discussions of several days and nights preceding could be so wholly cast aside that the feast of reason should not savor somewhat of rates, risks and renewals, premiums, policies and preventives, and that when the representatives of so much wisdom and keen intelligence nubent themselves for an hour or two there should not be some contests of playful wit and humorous allusions to the peculiarities or idiosyncrasies of one or more members.

"Sacred in future, oh Wednesday, thou art
To the seven o'clock joys of the Insurance table,
When the Members all meet to make much of that part

With which they so rashly fell out in the fable."

One of the cleverest speeches of the entertainment was that of Mr. Alf. Smith of the Imperial. Mr. Smith drew the attention of the Association to a hazard for which no provision had yet been made, and which in their deliberations, seemed to have been totally neglected or ignored,—he referred to the "Wind Hazard." There was scarcely a member present who could deny having had considerable experience of this kind of hazard individually as well as collectively; there was more or less of it all the time, but it had been more than usually severe during the present session of the Association, and he begged to move that Messrs. T. R. Wood of the Abnna and S. F. Magurn of the City of London be appointed a special committee to report on this Hazard.—This bright and sparkling effusion, of which our words give but a faint idea, was received with shouts of laughter in which the members of the proposed committee, well known for their volubility and readiness in debate, joined no less heartily than the rest.

Another speaker regretted the loss which the Association had met with in the departure