

The seventy-second annual meeting of the North British and Mercantile Insurance Co. was held on April 4th, when the report submitted shewed the following results :

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Net Premiums for 1881 £958,654
Losses for 1881..... £625,605

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

Premiums and Interest for 1881..... £462,824
Claims for Deaths and Endowments..... £293,173

The Fire Insurance Association.—We extract the following figures from the advance report of the Superintendent of Insurance :

Total premiums received in Canada,..... \$82,178.47
Total losses, 12,000
Expenses,..... 20,000

Not a bad shewing for the first year's business in Canada, and shews with what favor the public view the Association.

The report certainly must be very satisfactory to the English and Canadian Directors, and General Manager Robertson must certainly be congratulated on his success.

We notice that Mr. D. J. Stewart Browne has been appointed Inspector, and from what we know of this gentleman we feel assured that Mr. Robertson has secured a very able assistant.

Mr. William Rowland leaves Toronto to enter the service of the Montreal office of the Imperial Insurance Co. A Toronto Manager does not relish the coming east of any Insurance ability, considering that "Westward Ho!" should be the motto, and that the Queen City should accumulate all the underwriting talent in the Dominion.

It may be a slight offset to the above loss that Toronto undoubtedly incurs by Mr. Rowland's departure, that an office is opened at 62 Church street, Toronto, by Mr. Goad, for the purpose of improving his system of Insurance Surveys.

The benefit of this office will soon be felt by Toronto Underwriters, who will be spared the delay and inconvenience of sending their Block Plans to Montreal to have revision slips attached.

The Agricultural Insurance Company of Watertown, New York, has recently experienced a series of changes: John A. Sherman, president, died on the 24th ult., aged seventy-three years. Mr. Sherman was born in Rutland, N.Y., and was engaged in farming for many years. He removed to Watertown in 1856, the year after he had been elected a director of the Agricultural. In 1874 he was elected vice-president, and president in 1877. He was one of the incorporators of the Watertown Fire Insurance Company and its first vice-president. He remained a director of the Watertown till the time of his death. He was also vice-president of the Union National Bank of Watertown. At a special meeting of the directors, Isaac Munson was chosen president in place of the late J. A. Sherman, Dr. H. M. Stevens was elected secretary, and Sidney Cooper treasurer. By reason of Mr. John Fisher having succumbed to an attack of North West fever, Mr. James Flynn is now sole manager of the Company for Ontario. In due time it is most probable that Mr. Fisher will commence operations for the Company in Manitoba.

The Bill of the Solicitor-General respecting the inspection of Provincial Insurance Companies provides that, for the more efficient administration of the insurance business in the Province of Quebec, the Lieutenant-Governor in Council may appoint an officer, to be called the Inspector of Insurance, who shall act under the instructions of the Treasurer of the Province, and whose duty shall be to examine and report to the said Treasurer, from time to time, upon all matters connected with insurance, as carried on by companies subject to the legislative authority of this Province; and one of the Inspectors of Public Offices may be named as such inspector. The Inspector of Insurance shall visit the Head Office of every such company at least once in every year, and shall carefully examine the statements of the company as to its condition and affairs, verify the same by the books of the company, and report thereon to the Treasurer of the Province, as to all matters requiring his attention and decision. The Inspector shall, from such examination, prepare and lay before the Treasurer of the Province, an annual report of the condition of every company's business, as ascertained by him from his personal inspection, and such report shall be made for the year ending the thirty-first of August. The expenses of this Inspector are to be paid by an assessment levied upon the companies coming under this Act. Any company may, on report of the Inspector that he deems it unsafe, be prohibited by the Lt.-Governor in Council from transacting any further business under a penalty of \$1,000.

BRIGADE NOTES.

An electric door lock for theatres has been invented. The opening of one door opens all the others.

A new water-works pump for Hamilton was started at the Beach for the first time to-day. It delivers 122 gallons each stroke; the old one delivered 77 gallons per stroke.

Sherbrooke wishes to improve her system of water works, fire alarm, etc. Her Mayor, Mr. J. W. Wiggitt, has been in Ottawa for several days, examining into the water works.

The colored bootblack who saved the lives of three men at a late fire in New York, has received medals from the Humane societies of that city and London. The latter is solid gold, an ounce in weight.

Captain Wm McRobie, late of the Salvage Corps of this city, has been appointed to the position of Chief of the Winnipeg Fire Department at a salary of \$1,800 a year. Captain McRobie, during twenty-five years connection with the Montreal Fire Brigade, gave ample proof of his courage and ability as a fireman, and will doubtless institute important improvements in the working of the Winnipeg brigade.

The Building Inspector and other officials were present at the trial in Craig street of a new fire escape. It consists of a simple iron ladder fastened on the wall. A lower section is movable, and when out of use is pushed up and remains in front of the next section. In case of fire, when anyone comes down the ladders and touches the topmost rung of this movable section, a spring catch is loosened and the whole section slides down. The person then has only to go straight down the ladder to the ground. It worked very successfully.

If you didn't turn over the proverbial new leaf and get a life or accident policy with the coming in of the new year, it is not necessary nor wise to defer it to the dawn of 1883.