# Twice-a-Week Times

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## LAND SPECULATION.

The morning paper yesterday dealt somewhat exhaustively with a topic which it was pleased to designate "Fraudulent Flotations," the commendable article in its editorial columns referring particularly to real estate flotations in countries outside of British Columbia. We agree with our contemporary that the subject is one difficult to deal with, as in every new country rapid settlement and rising commercial centres along new lines of railway, with the consequent rapid increase in land values, offer temptations for speculation that are difficult of resistance. The opportunities for money making that arise are numerous and ordinarily too safe to be passed up by those who have even a small amount of ready cash to invest. That unscrupulous persons will take advantage of an avaricious public is to be expected, when the nature of some of these land transactions is bound to be purely speculative. But it is the covetous and avaricious investor who is likely to be bitten rather than the deliberative purchaser who takes care and investigates before risking his savings. In our opinion the dealer who takes advantage of the rapacious and greedy, but often foolish, speculator is little more culpable than the men who buy his property. Like every other good thing, it is the abuse and not the proper use of the system which is evil. With one piece of advice which our contemporary tenders we cordially agree. The Colonist says:

"Of good British Columbia investments there are many, and will be more, and there is not the least necessity for any person to invest his money in fraudulent propositions. If we could reach the ear of British investors generally, we should say to them: Do not buy into anything on the strength of an advertisement, but consult some trustworthy person, who will advise you as to the responsibility of the promoters and the bona fides of what they propose."

Having said this, however, we desire to point out that no stream can rise higher than its source and no standard of morality can be expected of the people of any country higher than that which is exemplified by those who rule over them. Nor can anyone be held culpable for what our contemporary calls fraudulent flotations when the perilous example of such flotations is set before the public by the government of a province.

The Times publishes to-day the story of the Hazelton townsites, in the discredit of which the government—though not actually responsible for—was certainly too closely associated with in one of the most distressing features of the deals which are now a reproach. The counsel offered by the Colonist as to the advisability of investigation before purchase should be considered unnecessary when the government of a province is jointly associated with a railway corporation in the sale of lands. What our contemporary calls the "bona fides" of a land sale should require no better guarantee than that it is undertaken and conducted under the aegis of a government. And we do not see how it is possible for the government to escape its just share in the scathing denunciation of the action of the Grand Trunk Pacific Company in the Hazelton case which was delivered by Judge Maybee in his ruling.

The government sale of lots in the Stewart townsite was even a worse case of fleecing the public than the case referred to above. In the Stewart case the government advertised and sold lands for phenomenal prices—running up to many times their speculative value—when an ounce of common sense must have told anyone familiar with the conditions in and around Stewart that it must be many years before the properties could rise to such figures. Whatever may be the future of Stewart—and we do not in any sense disparage its prospects—the competition for the properties sold by the government, developed by the system of public auction adhered to, was unhealthy and must work harm. The government encourages by this system what is in reality a lottery, and it has not been sufficiently scrupulous in the advertising matter which it has permitted its agents to circulate in arousing public interest and exciting victims for such auction sales.

While real estate men have before them the example of the government in such cases as the two we have named, it is idle for newspapers to moralize on the situation or advise caution in investment. There have doubtless been some transactions in British Columbia which have strained the quality of justice somewhat severely, but there have been none such conducted by private individuals which have carried on their face such prima facie evidence of security as those behind which the government has stood. And it may be unreservedly stated that few of the doubtful transactions have been so tacitly know to be unfair to the investing public as these two cases in which the government had a large share of responsibility.

The Times would therefore add to the sage advice of its morning contemporary, as a necessary suggestion to the British public, that the fact of a sale of townsites, or reputedly prospective commercial centres, being advertised in the name of the provincial government does not carry with it the guarantee of security that it should. Such speculative opportunities as the government offers in order to increase its revenue and maintain its laudable surplus do not obviate the necessity for close inspection. They require it equally with many other tempting inducements to get rich quickly.

## POLICING THE PACIFIC.

While the Canadian government is sucking its thumbs and meditating on the best way to block the development of a naval policy in keeping with the place of the Dominion in the chain of the Five Nations, Australia is giving the world a demonstration of how to take her position as a link in that chain. Not only are the land forces being brought up to a degree of numerical strength and trained efficiency commensurate with the population of the Commonwealth, but ten million dollars is to be expended this year in building upon the foundation of a navy. The government of Australia is alive to the responsibilities of the Anglo-Saxon people arising out of the prospect of the opening of the Panama Canal, and not only alive to the commercial possibilities but to the necessity of adequate policing of the waters of the Pacific ocean in the interests of the commerce of the Anglo-Saxon people.

In an address recently delivered in one of the coast cities of the United States Lieutenant J. J. Simons, of the Commonwealth forces, who has charge of the members of the Young Australian League touring America, referred briefly to the hope of the Australians that the United States will co-operate in the work of controlling the Pacific in the interest of free commence, secure from assault, and that the commercial and social relations between the two countries will become closer.

An American paper, commenting on the subject matter contained in the address, remarks:

"The suggestion is sure to meet with approval. Already the American export to Australia and New Zealand is extensive, and as the development of the two countries proceeds the exchange of products is bound to increase, Australia importing more extensively American manufactures, and the United States importing in greater quantities the raw materials of Australia, particularly wool, hard timber and meats.

"With but six millions of population and a government controlled by the working classes, the fact that Australia already has 100,000 trained soldiers and a considerable navy is evidence of a fine spirit of patriotism and a somewhat remarkable appreciation of its responsibilities and of faith in a great destiny."

With a broader view of the friendly relation which should exist between the overseas dominions and the American republic the paper goes on to say:

"Since the visit of the United States battleship fleet to Australia, the occasion of many striking demonstrations of popular esteem for this country by the people of the Island continent, the advisability of the co-operation of America and Australia in the work of policing the Pacific ocean has received the consideration of statesmen in both countries. With the federation of the Australian colonies the Australian people have developed a sense of responsibility, which was not so much in evidence before their participation in the colonial war in South Africa opened their eyes to the possibilities of their young nation in the way of military service to the empire. The completion of the Panama Canal will increase the commerce between Australia and the United States and will give new impetus to the development of the Pacific coast and the trade of the Pacific Ocean. The disturbances to commerce caused by the awakening of Asia are merely temperory and a prelude to a tremendous increase in the trade of the Orient, and the Australians realize, not only that the control of the Pacific is of first importance in the development of Australian commerce, but also that their country, which rigidly excludes Oriental immigration, is particularly attractive to the Japanese, the Chinese and other colonizing peoples bordering on the North Pacific. These are the reasons why Australia to-day has a trained force of 100,000 soldiers and the nucleus of a powerful, modern navy."

Men who exercise common sense in their estimate of the political relation of nations will agree that the sentiments expressed in the quotations we have made describe the essence of true progressive political economy. The Australians are not afraid to trade with any nation whose trade can be made to pay tribute to their own national progress. At the same time they are fully awakened to their share of responsibility for the maintenance of the integrity of the empire. At the present rate of progress they will have a national navy before Canada decides what she will do in this important matter.

The Australians have already decided, also, that their navy when it is increased is to be absolutely under the control of the Commonwealth though at the service of the empire when empire interests and integrity demand it. The Australian government is not controlled by a dominant element in its cabinet whose motto is "a bas la marine" nor by an element which is prepared for the sake of power to wreck the imperialism of the colony.

## A GRIEVANCE DISPELLED.

That was a merciful act of Premier McBride and Attorney-General Bowser to obtain the services of two architects to make an expert examination of the Victoria Court House in order to set the mind of the public at rest respecting the semi-fireproof character of the building. We do not for a moment suggest that the report of the architects was contrary to facts they found in the structure under their examination. But it must be admitted that their discovery came with a sense of relief to the public who have important and irreplacable documents in the custody of the provincial office. To know that a structure which has never been considered a safe repository for titles and other legal documents is actually safe enough for all practical purposes takes a load off the public mind. The discovery and announcement, particularly the announcement, go to show that we make more than half our worries; that we meet troubles more than half way and that, poor weak creatures as we are, we persist in crossing our bridges before we come to them. A striking exemplification of the fact that half of our anxieties are respecting things which could never happen.

The Board of Trade and the Real Estate Exchange in their conspiracy to worry the government will now have to fall back on the single complaint that the registry office is inadequately manned and that the rules governing the transaction of public business somewhat hamper rather than expedite such matters. That is one grievance which cannot be removed by an expert investigation, as the publicn is too well aware of the delays which occur in completing business transactions involving considerable sums of money owing to inability to obtain access to the required documents or secure certificates of completed registration.

For safer custody the public must wait until the new court house is built on the site so wisely selected by Mr. J. H. Hawthornethwaite a year ago on Menzies and Belleville street and purchased for $65,000 cash.

## ARTHUR HAWKES.

Hon. Arthur Hawkes, special immigration commissioner of the Borden government, who claims that his appeal to the British born was "an appeal which, followed up by a vigorous platform and press propaganda, did much, perhaps more, than any other special effort to secure the victory which has given more hope to British Imperialists the world over than anything else that has happened within living memory," has broken out again. He has sent to the Times advance proofs of a long, egotistical and windy article on "The Imperial Emigrant and his Political Religion," which he asks the Times to publish. In an accompanying letter to the editor, he says: "It contains what I believe to be the basis of a really Imperial Gospel." The Times is sorry that it cannot, after having read the article, agree with Mr. Hawkes.

The new commissioner is a genius. In Vancouver he told the newspapers that he "approached his new office with absolutely no preconceived ideas on immigration," yet following this declaration he sends out his cleverly devised advertising matter prepared before his appointment as commissioner and containing "the basis of a really Imperial Gospel." In spite of the ponderous avoirdupois and rhinoceros hide of the British-born Swede, Mr. Hawkes is too transparent for the West.

## HAS NARROW ESCAPE.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 27.—The daring of Fred Tressel, a conductor on a street car saved the life of 14-year-old Frank Rossaren after he had been knocked from the Salmon Bay trestle over the Great Northern tracks on Manday and had landed in a tangle of telegraph wires 40 feet above the ground. When Tressel, whose car struck the boy, saw the danger of Frank's position he made his way to the ground and climbed the pole nearest to the boy who was swinging dangerously in midair. Creeping carefully along the swinging wires Tressel reached the lad, who clung to him while the perilous trip was made back to the pole, where the motorman of the car was perched in the cross-trees waitng to relieve Tressel of his burden.

## BURNED TO DEATH IN JAIL.

St. Helena, Cal., Dec. 28.—An intinerant umbrella mender, whose name is unknown, was burned to death in the jail here. He had been drinking and because he raised a disturbance was locked up. It is believed his bedding caught fire from matches he had in his pockets.

The jail building is of stone and was not damaged. When the firemen extinguished the blaze in the man's cell they found his body burned almost to a crisp.

# FINANCIAL CRISIS NOW FACES CHINA

## SERIOUS RESULTS OF FAMINE AND CONFLICT

### Returning Missionary Contrasts Conditions in North China With Boxer Rising

On the Sado Maru, which arrived at the Outer Wharf this morning from Yokohama, were Rev. A. and Mrs. Jennings, of the China Inland Mission, who are settled at Lu Cheng, in the south eastern portion of Shan Si province. Mr. Jennings is returning to Europe on furlough, while his wife, who is a native of Scranton, Penn., is visiting her friends with the two children, who were born in China, and have not yet seen their American relatives.

While they had contemplated leaving their station in the Spring they accelerated their journey by a few days through hearing that the railway between Pekin and Honkow had been disturbed by the revolutionary troops, but this fortunately proved to have been only temporary, as the tracks had been relayed, and trifflc was proceeding uninterruptedly at that time.

They went down country by mule train, without any escort, and were not disturbed, the province of Shan Si having been one of the earliest to show sympathy with the revolutionary cause, and Mr. Jennings explained that at any rate so far as the northern provinces were concerned the white residents were in no danger on this occasion. As a matter of fact they left some English missionaries at work, and engaged in building operations at the mission as if nothing had happened. On the way down, however, there were few missionaries to be seen, most of them congregating at Shanghai by advice of the foreign consuls.

As one who went through the Boxer trouble, being then stationed in the same vicinity as his present post, and had a perilous journey for forty days in which six of the fourteen members of his party were murdered en route, he was surprised how little the present disturbances affected the white people in the country. The war was, however, purely a civil struggle and the attacks which had taken place on missionaries travelling to the coast were due to robber bands who had seized the opportunity of the civil disorder to assault and rob the foreigners. Such he thought were the cause of the murder of Mrs. Beckman at Sian Fu, and of the assault on Rev. and Mrs. Blom by irregular soldiery at Honan Fu on their way to the coast from their station at Tsing Chung, south-western Shan Si. The latter he knew quite well personally, and Mrs. Blom was now in the hospital at Shanghai in a serious condition. This party, however, reached safety a day or two after the Sado Maru left Shanghai for Japanese ports, so he did not see them. He had hoped to spend Christmas on American soil, as his wife had not been at home for some years, but a delay of a week in Yokohama had delayed matters so that they spent Yuletide at sea.

While they were still in Shanghai reports reached the missionaries assembled there from all parts of China that the soldiers had proved troublesome in the towns of Tsing-Klang-Pu and An-tong, in Klang-Su province, where the China Inland Mission possessed stations, but whether the lives of the whites were endangered he could not say at the time they left China.

Speaking of the condition of affairs in the country Mr. Jennings remarked that when they reached Tient-sin, passing around Pekin, which they did not enter, having children to care for, they found the whole financial state of the country embarrassed. At every one of the treaty ports failures had taken place or were impending, and following on the disastrous losses succeeding the collapse of the rubber boom last year, in which the foreign merchants in the Chinese cities were heavily concerned, the present troubles would send many of them finally on the rocks. The banks had been unable to send money up country, and the missionaries who remained behind would be unable to receive their quarterly remittances. He anticipates a financial crisis as soon as the country settles down from its period of civil conflict.

The absence of order caused some curious results. He had a Chinese magistrate in his home city, and at a larger city in the province was a Manchu, and neither knew what authority to recognize. The latter died of heart failure from fright before he came away from Lu Cheng. Speaking of the future Mr. Jennings said he feared for the results in Pekin if announcement was made in consequence of the present negotiations that the Manchu domination must go, and a republic take its place. The Manchus recognized they were on their last legs, and a massacre of foreigners might be the result of the knowledge that their power was at an end. In China eyes were turned to Pekin with the expectation of a final rally in the interests of the imperialists.

## BROKEN RAIL CAUSES WRECK.

Laramie, Wyo., Dec. 27.—Union Pacific westbound train No. 7, running 40 miles an hour, was wrecked to-day fourteen miles west of here. The engine left the track on account of a broken rail and was followed by the first three cars. The dining car chef was seriously injured and a number of passengers were slightly hurt. A relief train with surgeons and the wrecker were sent from here.

Last year 605,556 people in the United Kingdom paid income tax.

France possesses nineteen lady barristers.

## FATHER TAKES CHARGE OF SON.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 28.—An order of the court was signed here to-day by a judge representing the Kitsap county superior court permitting ex-Governor Malcolm R. Paterson of Tennessee to remove his 23-year-old son, Malcolm C. Paterson, from the state of Washington, on filing a bond of $5,000 to guarantee that the young man will not return to this state. Ex-Governor Paterson furnished the bond and his son, who has been a prisoner in the county jail here, was turned over to him. He has stated that he will place the youth in a Tennessee sanitarium.

Young Paterson, who shot R. T. Seal, at Port Orchard, on December 7, was examined as to his sanity and a commission of experts found that he was suffering from dipsomania. Seal, the man shot by young Paterson, is making a complete recovery.

## FEUD RESULTS IN TWO DEATHS.

Reno, Nev., Dec. 27.—In a duel with guns near Lowleck at noon yesterday A. Killabrew and William Walker were killed. Killabrew was shot fourteen times. Both men were ranchers, Killabrew being an old time resident of Humboldt county and Walker a recent arrival. Family trouble is given as the cause of the fight.

# SAILORS RESCUED FROM SCHOONER

### Vessel Driven on Rocks by Gale — Life-Savers Take Off Crew

Block Island, R. I., Dec. 28.—The four-masted schooner Adelaide Randall, of Port Jefferson, N. Y., coal-laden, was hurled on the ledges west of Block Island by a terrific northwesterly gale to-day and four hours and a half later her crew of ten men were rescued by the Block Island life-saving crew. The rescue was spectacular and was accomplished only after the life-savers had tried repeatedly to reach the stranded craft. The Randall was bound from Norfolk, Va., for New London, Conn.

## NEGRO SHOT TO DEATH.

Baltimore, Md., Dec. 27. — King Davis, a negro aged 28 years, who on Saturday night shot and killed Frederick A. Schwab (white) at Fairfield, Anne Arundel county, was taken from the lockup at Brooklyn, a suburb of Baltimore, early on Christmas day and shot to death by a small party of unidentified men. Davis was dragged to a spot about 200 yards from the station and shot four times through the lungs. His body was not found until several hours later.

The band, though not to exceed 8 or 10 in number, formed quietly. They effected an entrance into the lockup without attracting the attention of persons living nearby, and went to Davis' cell, where they found the negro asleep.

Hubert Chase, another negro, who was held in the station as a witness in the Schwab case, was not molested. He said Davis fought desperately and shrieked for mercy, but his cries were silenced by a blow on the head which stretched him unconscious. He then was dragged away to his death.

## GAS WORKERS MAY STRIKE.

New York, Dec. 27.—An order to strike of the 32,000 gas workers in this city is promised within the next 48 hours by the executive board of the Gas Workers' Union. The committee was recently vested with full power to start a general strike in the event of failure to obtain a satisfactory settlement with President Geo. B. Cortelyou, of the Consolidated Gas Company. The demands of the union are for recognition and uniform wage scale.

## PISTOL DUEL.

Seattle, Wash., Dec. 27.—Detectives A. N. Mayou and Keene, engaged in a pistol duel with one of a gang of three suspects in a room at 710 Columbia street last night. The men escaped, but the detectives think he is wounded. Two of the men, booked as Frank Warren and Paul Starke, were arrested early last night. Mayou and Keene went to search the room they occupied and while doing this, the third man of the trio made his appearance and was pulled into the room by the detectives. While Detective Keene was examining a suitcase for stolen articles, the man shoved an automatic revolver in his face and started toward the door. Keene called out to Mayou to get him. Mayou ducked and pulled his revolver. Shots from both guns sounded as one as the detective and the stranger began shooting. The man reached the door and throwing the bolt escaped. Two shots were exchanged after he reached the alley. Mayou followed him to the alley and street but lost trace of him as he ran toward Yesler Way.

Persons in the neighborhood say the man was running fast and was limping, indicating that he had been shot. The room occupied by the three men was literally a second-hand store of stolen goods.

# CARRIED SUITCASE FULL OF DYNAMITE

### Man Arrested in Mill Town Declares He Will Make Statement

Pittsburg, Dec. 27.—"I'm going to clear myself. I will not take all the blame for this and the rest of them will have to take their medicine along with me," was the utterance to-day of George Bridges, a stranger arrested at Monesin, Pa., while carrying a suitcase containing 79 sticks of dynamite and a roll of fuse.

Bridges weakened in police questioning and the authorities declared he would make a clean breast of it when taken before a magistrate for a preliminary hearing late this afternoon. Little is known of the man. He appeared at Monesin several weeks ago. Eight thousand non-union men are employed in the mills of the town.

Dynamite Found.

Rochester, Pa., Dec. 27.—Twenty-four sticks of dynamite, twelve caps wrapped in cotton and ten yards of fuse securely packed in a case evidently made for the purpose, and resembling an ordinary travelling bag, were found in the barns of McDonald & Hartman, dealers in contractors' supplies, to-day, by Albert Wilhelm, a clerk in the firm's employ. The find was turned over to the police, who learned that the case also contained a long paper knife bearing the name of a Philadelphia company. The police recognized the bag as one they had seen in the hands of a stranger several days ago. Since the finding of a quantity of explosives near the end of the Pittsburg & Erie railroad bridge across the Ohio river from here several months ago, said to have been planted by agents of the McNamaras, the police have been active and the bridge has been guarded night and day.

## HEARSE WRECKED.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 28.—While a funeral cortege was on its way from a Mission undertaking establishment to a Greek church where services were to be held, a street car skidded and struck and overturned the hearse, throwing the casket containing the body of Mrs. Barbara Rogall to the pavement. The hearse was wrecked and the glass front of the casket was broken out exposing the corpse. A new hearse was sent for, however, and the procession continued.

THE LATE E. B. MARVIN.

From a photograph taken some years ago.

Many expressions of regret over the death of E. B. Marvin in Los Angeles on Tuesday were heard on the streets to-day. Mr. Marvin had been identified with the commercial life of the city so long that he will be greatly missed. The funeral takes place this afternoon in the California city.

Mr. Marvin is survived by a widow, a step-son, Frank Adams; two step-daughters, Mrs. J. A. Stratton, of Seattle, and Miss Grace Adams; and an adopted daughter, Miss Florence Marvin.

# LIFE INSURANCE PLACED IN YEAR

## HOME COMPANIES ARE FAVORED IN CANADA

### In Thirty-five Years There Has Been a Remarkable Increase in Business Done

The second part of the annual report of the superintendent of insurance is just out from the presses of the King's Printer, Ottawa, and contains a mass of information regarding the business of life insurance during the calendar year 1910.

The business of life insurance was transacted in 1910 by forty-three active companies, of which twenty-five are Canadian, seven British and eleven American. This list differs from that of the previous year by the addition of a Canadian company, the Travellers Life Insurance Company of Canada, and of a Canadian fraternal society, the Royal Guardians, which has received a license similar to that issued to the subsidiary high court of the Ancient Order of Foresters, for the transaction of life and sickness insurance.

The total amount of policies in Canada taken during the year 1910 was $152,762,520, which is greater than the amount taken in 1909 by $21,023,442. The Canadian companies show an increase in 1910 of $11,240,701, whilst in 1909 they had an increase of $10,092,294; the British companies have an increase of $240,332, whilst in 1909 they had an increase of $540,473; and the American companies have an increase of $9,542,409, whilst in 1909 they had an increase of $21,210,005, the total increase in 1910 being $21,023,442, as above stated. The respective amounts effected are:

| | |
|---|---|
| Canadian companies ..... | $90,362,678 |
| British companies .... .... | 4,170,562 |
| American companies ..... | 58,229,280 |

The amount taken by native companies exceeds that taken by the British and American together by about $28,000,000.

The total amount of insurance in force in Canada at the date of the statements was $856,113,059, which shows the large increase of $75,755,079 over that of the previous year, being distributed as follows:

Canadian companies, amount in force $565,669,110; increase, $50,251,673.

British companies, amount in force, $47,816,775; increase, $831,583.

American companies, amount in force, $242,629,174; increase, $24,672,823.

In 1875 the total amount of insurance effected was $15,074,258, of which $5,077,601 was in Canadian companies, $1,689,833 in British companies, and $8,306,824 in American companies. In 1885 there was a total of $27,164,988—$14,881,695 Canadian, $3,950,647 British and $8,332,646 American. In 1895 there was a total insurance effected of $44,341,198, divided $27,909,672 among Canadian companies, $3,337,638 among British companies and $13,093,888 among American companies. In 1905 the insurance effected was $105,907,336, of which $67,539,141 was with Canadian companies, $3,881,980 with British companies and $34,486,215 with American companies. The figures for 1910 were: $90,362,678 in Canadian companies, $4,170,562 in British companies and $58,229,280 in American companies, a total of $152,762,520. In the thirty-six years since the department was created there has been effected an insurance aggregating $1,912,839,837, of which $1,148,946,866 was placed with Canadian companies, $114,650,968 with British companies and $649,242,003 with American companies.

The amount of insurance terminated in natural course, namely, by death maturity, or expiry, was $13,570,019, which is greater by $2,134,958 than the corresponding amount in the previous year; and the amount terminated by surrender and lapse was $72,700,096, being greater than in the previous year by $9,919,490.

Relatively to the amounts at risk the amounts so terminated are somewhat in excess of those of the previous year, giving for every $1,000 of current risk $15.85 terminated in natural course and $84.92 by surrender and lapse, making a total of $100.77. In the year 1909 these rates were $14.56 and $79.94, respectively, making a total of $94.50, thus giving a difference of $6.27 for each $1,000 at risk.

In the calculation of the death rate in 1910, as in previous years, the mean number of policies in force and the number of policies terminated by death during the year were admitted as approximations to the mean number of lives exposed to risk and the number of deaths during the year, respectively. It is believed that the results arrived at represent the actual mortality per 1,000 among insured lives in Canada as accurately as can be gathered from the returns of the companies. The rate in 1905 was 9.863 per 1,000 and in 1910 it was 10.419 per 1,000.

For every $100 premiums received there has been paid to policy-holders $53.53, leaving $46.47 to be carried to reserve, expense and profits. Collecting the results for the thirty-five years, 1879 to 1910, we find that the total payments to policy-holders amount to 52.11 per cent. of the premium income during the same period. The total payments to policy-holders made by companies which have ceased to do business in Canada, from 1879 to 1910, exceed by 73.46 per cent. the total premium income during the same period.

## ENGLISH LEAGUE GAME.

London, Dec. 28.—Sheffield United beat Preston North End by four goals to two in a first league football game to-day.

London's yearly importation of pearls—most of which come from Bombay—averages one million pounds in value.