

calculations, and indeed in commercial transactions as well. The association contends, however, that the metric is not so useful or convenient as the ordinary English system already in use. The reasons for this we may quote from the association's report recently published:

"This English system has not been changed since the time of Elizabeth. Established in England, it became established in the English colonies. Hence it rules in the United States, in Canada, in Australasia, etc. The English peoples have only one yard and one pound. Wellington, Washington and Westminster measure by the same identical yard; Montreal, Maritzburg and Melbourne weigh by the same identical pound. The measures of the Russian Empire are based on the English inch, of which the English yard is a multiple. The English yard and English pound are the measures of more people directly concerned in foreign commerce than are the weights and measures of the metrical system."

The upholders of the metric system, it seems to us, falsify the premises somewhat when they base an argument for its universal adoption upon the consideration that the larger proportion of Great Britain's foreign trade is carried on with countries in which it is in force, for a little while ago, when the matter was brought up in Parliament, a member of the British Government pointed out that not more than 42 per cent. of British trade was carried on with such countries.

However, though the use of the metric system is not compulsory in the British Isles, it has been legalized, so that any person thinking it to his advantage to make use of it can do so if he choose. And this is its position also in Canada and the United States.

It is contended by some that since Germany has seen fit to adopt the metric standard of measurement, other nations should justifiably do the same. But the cases are not exactly similar. In the old States of what is now the German Empire, there were no less than twenty-five different kinds of "feet" used in lineal measure. Some sort of uniformity was deemed necessary, and the consequence was the adoption of the metre. In Great Britain, Canada and the United States this uniformity does to a large extent already exist, not only in their own respective territories, but with each other. As the association's report points out, the inch, foot, acre and mile measures are the same in the survey systems of some five hundred million people, and its argument is, why change, when such change would cause an amount of calculation which could be completed scarcely within a couple of generations?

We do not pretend to feel convinced that the adoption compulsorily of the metric system would be attended with such hardships as its opponents suggest, but do realize that the opposition is not only keen and reasoned, but gradually growing in volume. The upshot is a difficult thing to determine; it certainly does not at present, however, look like an easy win for the metricists.

GREAT BRITAIN'S TRADE.

At the present time of fiscal controversy in the Mother Country the Board of Trade returns for the United Kingdom are looked for with increased interest, more particularly that section of them which treats of the movement and ratio of trade with the colonies and with foreign countries. The following

excerpt will serve to set forth the facts for the half-year which ended on June 30th last:

	1905. £	1904. £	1903. £
Imports from:			
Foreign countries	211,832,637	213,429,200	209,169,100
British possessions	61,290,865	58,472,200	51,400,900
Total imp'ts	273,123,502	271,901,400	260,570,000
Exports to:			
Foreign countries	101,863,268	91,006,300	88,204,000
British possessions	53,842,593	53,110,400	54,318,600
Total exp'ts	155,706,221	144,116,700	142,522,600

In other words, there was an appreciable increase in the imports from British possessions and a decrease in those from foreign countries. At the same time, British exports to the colonies stood almost stationary, while those to foreigners showed the large increase of almost eleven millions. Looking at this matter more in detail, it appears that Britain's imports from Canada decreased quite materially, the one item of flour having fallen away to the extent of no less than 50 per cent. In respect of export trade, that to Canada increased slightly. On the other hand, the imports from Australia into the Mother Country rose from £12,839,000 in the first half of 1904 to £15,185,000 in 1905, a satisfactory increase for the Australians, which was due, no doubt, to the improvement in climatic and business conditions in the Commonwealth. Britain's imports from New Zealand showed a particularly large expansion. Those from the United States decreased by something like two and a half millions sterling, while those from Germany increased materially. Shipments from Britain to India rose from £18,822,000 to £20,339,000, while to Cape Colony they fell from £6,243,000 to £4,918,000. To China they increased from £4,009,000 to £6,938,000, and to Japan from £2,094,000 to £4,459,000. Apart from India, the showing of the British exportation list to the colonies and possessions is a disappointing one at a time when that to foreigners made good headway.

LIFE INSURANCE NOT UNDER QUESTION.

To read some articles in the public press and to hear the comments of some "men on the street," one would imagine that the principles, and, indeed, the whole basis of life insurance, were in the crucible for investigation. Recently things have gone wrong with one or two of the great life insurance companies in the United States, and the cry goes up, "Investigate." But it is not life insurance that is being criticized; it is not the principle that has been at fault, or that is to be investigated; it is the management of a number of men in the business, influential in one city, it is true, but still few. Their methods have been wrong; but the great and inestimable value of life insurance itself remains unshaken.

It must be remembered that as a great financial institution, life insurance is comparatively a new thing. Yet during its lifetime many far-reaching up-

heavals have taken place. Banks have gone bankrupt, collapsed with far-reaching consequences. The history of the things, has been of a few who tried to get themselves out of the consequences upon the whole of which its incidence and its nearness have only been forward.

When one looks in its depths, the comparatively speaking insurance, the way and that they have when they have interests of those. And allowing for these weaknesses that life insurance, the existence of its most eminent position on the part of. This should be the readers of the series appearing in the publication from the sense as their own on the dotted line.

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To be honest which always and peculiar situation, however, ending just now. A factor of the American good trade is assumed however, that at large. A country who a through part of insulted the very deeply. And the retort the offender's the latter is a cry has already of the United States exasperating in altogether like will lose as lit the quarrel am

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