

MORTALITY AMONG MISSIONARIES.—Our excellent English contemporary, "The Fortnight," makes the compilation of figures on the death rate among missionaries by the Boston "Standard," the subject of the following comments:

According to the utterances of such public men as Lord Salisbury, the Rev. C. Voysey and others, not only are nine-tenths of the world's wars provoked by missionaries, but the lot of these pioneers of civilization is a peculiarly hazardous one. Recent events in China unhappily lend a certain lurid colour to the latter part of this statement, though none but the sensation-mongers themselves attach any great value to the daily reports of wholesale massacres of Christian workers in the outlying districts of the Celestial Empire. In calculating the chances of safety of those engaged in mission labours in China, some confidence and consolation may be gathered from certain statistics that our contemporary, the Boston "Standard," has opportunely compiled on "Mortality among Missionaries." The figures are based on the mortality experience for the last ten years of those missionaries going out from the Congregational and Baptist Societies carrying life assurance. The localities covered Africa, India, Mexico, Hawaiian Islands, Japan and China. According to these data, out of the 9,955 men and women going out to convert souls only ninety seven died during the whole period. This represents a death-rate of only 9.8 per cent. as against 13.5 per cent., the average mortality experience of twenty-eight American companies on all classes of risks. The chief causes of death are enumerated, but, oddly enough, murder does not figure in the list. Have the peoples, for whose eternal salvation the western world is so anxious, lost their taste for missionary soup and Christian stew, or is the heathen, after all, not so black as he is painted?

PERSONALS.

Hon. E. T. Orear, superintendent of the Insurance Department of Missouri, paid a brief visit to Montreal this week. In speaking of the growth of insurance in the United States, more especially of the three giant life companies, Mr. Orear stated that they would soon be in a position to control to a very large extent the financial affairs of the country, and he was not quite satisfied as to the wisdom of permitting any corporations to possess the power of illimitable growth. Mr. Orear expressed himself as delighted with the progress observable in Montreal and with the natural beauty of the surroundings of the city.

Mr. W. P. Clirehugh, general manager of the London and Lancashire Life, has returned from a trip to the West, during which he visited Toronto, Winnipeg and other places. Referring to Winnipeg, Mr. Clirehugh mentioned that he journeyed to that city on the initial trip of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1883, accompanied by Sir Nigel Kingscote, chairman of the London Board of his company. The growth of Winnipeg since that time he regards as astounding to a visitor from Europe. Wide streets, handsome buildings and a swarming population mark the growth of Manitoba's capital. All over the provinces visited, Mr. Clirehugh observed signs of a reasonable degree of prosperity, and he was particularly pleased with the apparent growth of Montreal.

NOTES FROM OTTAWA.

The Canada Atlantic here, while, of course, acting in its own interest, is nevertheless doing much to upbuild the city. No opportunity is lost to inform the public as to its advantages and connections. It took the Engineering Convention to Depot Harbor, its lake port for Western traffic, and now as an Eastern and ocean terminus it has laid hold upon Quebec, where its latest move is to apply for space on the Louise embankment for an immense shed to be used in its transatlantic business.

Ottawa enjoys the unpleasant reputation of being among the dearest of Canadian cities in the question of coal, averaging about a dollar per ton more than Toronto.

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There was rather a lively meeting of the Fire and Light Committee on Tuesday, to discuss the delays in connection with the auxiliary pumping station. It transpired that the estimate of \$67,000 will have to be increased to \$80,000 at least.

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A party of 200 has left Ottawa to look over the fertile lands of New Orleans, with the view to settling.

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At the annual convention of labor men held here last week, a resolution was adopted without discussion, favoring the free carriage of newspapers by the mails.

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Hull proposes to exempt the Bank of Ottawa from local improvement taxes. It might well do so, as the bank has been very kind to the city in a financial way.

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Of the \$60,000 grant received from the government for local improvements, the sum of \$29,205 has been expended.

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The delay in re-establishing the street lighting system in the burnt district is causing much comment.

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Since the Hull fire, by-laws have been passed authorizing the issue of \$70,000 debentures for local improvements. These debentures are now being prepared. Some for wooden sidewalks are payable in seven years, others for permanent sidewalks are payable in twenty years, and a third set for sewerage improvements will run thirty years. All pay five per cent.

SPHINX.

Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by correspondents.

TORONTO LETTER.

The C. F. U. A. Meeting in Hamilton—Incidents in Connection Therewith—Convalescence of Mr. Kirkpatrick.

Dear Editor,

At once flattered and fluttered by the assembling in their midst of the C. F. U. A. for the annual meeting of 1900, the members of the Hamilton Board