The president of the Midland Railway, Mr. Geo. A. Cox, and Mr. R. Jaffray, returned from London, England, a few days ago. While there, they were successful in placing on the market, at '95, some \$610,000 of the Company's bonds. These bear five per cent. interest. In round numbers the total indebtedness of the different lines forming the Midland system is now \$8,000,-000. And what is satisfactory is the fact that already the net earnings of the present mileage is more than sufficient to pay the interest on the Company's indebtedness. This is in marked contrast with its condition a few years ago. The work of construction on the connecting links between the different lines is being rapidly pushed forward, and those in control are entitled to much credit for the vigorous manner in which the Company's affairs are administered.

-A correspondent calls attention to what he considers an inaccurate statement of the ratio of expenses of American Life Insurance Companies. In our yearly summary of life insurance business by leading companies, which for 1881 appeared on page 183 of this volume, we quote the management expenses of the American companies without including taxes. This, says our correspondent, "makes their expenses appear smaller than they are, and is unjust to Canadian companies." We find the expenses of the four American Life Companies to be, including taxes, as under :-

| Company. | Year. | Per \$100 Incom |
|---------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Ætna. | 1880 | \$10.47. 11.87. 13.49. |
| Equitable. | 1879 1880 1881 | 15.20. 16.82. , 16.12. |
| Union Mutual. | 1879 1880 1881 | 25.13. 26.55. 25.83. |
| Travellers. | {1879 {1880 | 16.75. 13.61. 8.00. |
| | | |

FIRE RECORD.

ONTABIO FIRES.—Farmersville, Aug. 20.—
T. G. Stevens' furniture factory and dwelling house burned, loss \$3,000, factory not insured, house insured for \$1,000.—St. George, 10th.

—Dr. Patten's house, barn, 70 loads of barley, 40 tons of hay, and 20 pigs; insurance \$500; loss fully \$3,000.—Enniskillen, 14th.—The barn and contents of Geo. Dennis destroyed; insurance \$1,000 in London Mutual.—Br. lleville. insured \$1,000 in London Mutual.—Belleville, 16th.—Wm. Alford's store and bwelling on Cannington road destroyed; loss \$3,000; insured \$1,800.—Elizabethtown, 17th.—S. M. Falk. ner's barn and contents burned; loss 1,500; not ner's barn and contents burned; loss 1,500; not insured; supposed incendiary.——Smith's Mills, 11th.—The barns and outbuildings of Geo. Gibbons were struck by lightning and completely destroyed; loss \$500; partly insured.——Tilsonburg, 15th.—Mr. McDonald's barn with 500 bushels whoat destroyed; not insured.——Tweed, 16th.—Mr. Arthur Williams' barn burned, loss about \$1,000; insured \$600; supposed incendiary.—Orangeville. 16th.—The posed incendiary.—Orangeville, 16th.—The stables of the Gordon House with contents comstatics of the Gordon House with contents completely destroyed; loss about \$2,000; not insured.——Sharbot Lake, 11th.—Newman's saw mill burned; loss about \$2,000; not insured.——Tamworth, 12th.—Jones' woollen mill and nearly all the contents destroyed, Friday last; loss estimated \$6,000; no insurance.

OTHER PROVINCES.—St. John N. B.—The drying-room of Park's cotton mill damaged \$400. Quebec, 14th.—Losses by late fire as follows:
J. Plamondon's store and residence, \$8000,
partly insured. J. M. Pelletier's block, \$6,000.
Mr. Gagnon's building and stock of fire the store of the store partly insured. J. M. Pelletier's block, \$6,000. Mr. Gagnon's bui ding and stock of furniture, \$9,000, insured \$5,000. Mr. Mecleries boot and shoe store, \$6,000, insured \$4,500 in Royal and \$1,200 in Queen. McHugh, wooden house, \$600. Blouin, butcher, \$1,000, and Dion, grocer, \$3,500 or over.——St. Roch's, Que., 19th.—Roy's packing case, factory, Richard's leather tip factory, the residences of Messrs. Chevret, Roofer, Drolet, and Cote destroyed; loss will exceed \$40,000; Mr. Roy losing \$30,000, with only an insurance of \$7,000. The following companies are interested. Lancashire \$3,400, Citizen's are interested, Lancashire \$8,400, Citizen's \$1,000, Canada Fire and Marine \$600, Fire Insurance Ass'n \$500; the Quebec loses nothing.

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