SOME OMISSIONS.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times :

SIR,—I wish through your journal to remark that there is not a single exhibit of Canadian wool at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition. Is not this an oversight? I understand that the experts who are looking over the wools from other British Colonies have expressed anxiety to get samples of Canadian growth, considering that it might be used to advantage in combination with other wools.

Attention may well be drawn also to the fact that the Canadian whiskey shown, as well as the beer and the best class of wine sent to the Exhibition, was speedily sold. There is, I am well assured, a splendid opening for some more consignments in this direction. In fact, Ontario rye whiskey is very much sought after. The exhibit of honey from Canada has not arrived, and is frequently asked for.

CANADIAN.

London, England, 2nd Sept., 1886.

THE COST OF ASSESSMENT ASSURANCE.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

SIR,—Your issue of Aug. 13th, 1885, contains an article referring to the London Masonic Mutual Benefit Association among other assessment associations. Figures are given purporting to be a statement of deaths and cost of these institution. These figures, as far as they apply to the L. M. M. B. Association are almost identical with those which appeared in your issue of Aug. 8th, 1884. Then the writer admitted the average cost of every $1,000 insurance, without profits, in old line companies to be $28.20 per annum, and attempted to prove, in his way, that co-operative associations cost more, namely $28.30. In our reply, which appeared in your issue of Sept. 12th, 1884 we showed how far his figures were to be relied upon by the fact that for the 13 years preceding, in the L. M. M. B. Association, the highest cost in any one year was $15.00 per $1,000 insurance, and the average cost for the 13 years was $11.00 per annum including expenses. The above facts will apply with equal force to the figures used in your issue of Aug. 13th, 1886. But as the writer uses them for a different purpose, namely to prove they indicate a "downward road to inevitable disaster," to which "there is no exception and no escape," a word of reply is needed.

Any one drawing such an important conclusion should be sure his figures are right. It is also clear the writer, with his present stock of information regarding the L. M. M. B. Association at least, will never be able to give a correct criticism. His argument is :—There is an increasing cost from increasing death rate and consequent numerous lapsing of members, therefore "downward road to inevitable disaster." This mode of reasoning will prove more than the writer intends, for old line companies he will admit, have an increase of death rate and therefore cost to the companies; the other consequences named will be if his argument is worth anything.

But, he will say, old line companies have a reserve to protect them from these consequences. So the L. M. M. B. Association has a large reserve, and an adequate and permanent system of reserve building, forming as complete a preventative and safe-guard against collapse from these causes. The writer does not evidently understand that assessment societies may be surrounded with guards as well as old line companies, and falls into the error of supposing that because some have not these guards, all have not.

The writer further overlooks the fact that our policyholders, after the first five years receive annual and growing profits to the amount of some 20 % of their cost or premiums. The effect of these profits in our system is to level down the cost or premium if so be there should be a constant increased in the death rate. But this leveling down process differs so far from the old line companies that, while theirs is leveled down to $28.20 per $1,000 insurance on the average, the L. M. M. B. Association levels its premiums down to half that amount and less.

Yours respectfully, etc.,
R. LEWIS,
President L. M. M. B. Ass.

London, Sept. 9th, 1886.

Meetings.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Canada Life Assurance Company was held on the 14th September, at the head offices of the company, in Hamilton. The chair was occupied by the president, Mr. A. G. Ramsay. The shareholders present were: Messrs. W. F. Burton, Geo. A. Young, F. W. Gates, Hon. D. McInnes, W. F. Findlay, R. Hills, Jas. Osborne, Dr. W. L. Billings, Adam Brown, Dennis Moore, John Riddell, David Kidd, Alex. Ramsay, A. Bruce, Campbell Ferrie, Walter R. McDonald, Thos. C. Swinyard, of New York; Nehemiah Merritt, of St. Catharines.

The following representatives of the company were present: Alex. Ramsay, David Kidd, Dr. McDonald, of Hamilton; J. D. Henderson, of Toronto; E. W. Cox, of Peterboro'.

Mr. R. Hills, who acted as secretary of the meeting, read the advertisement calling the shareholders together, and also the minutes of the last general meeting.

The president said:—Before going on with the regular order of proceedings, I would like to explain the delay in calling the meeting, which is held, this year, later than is usual. The directors were anxious to have the result of the investigations of the Government Insurance Department. We now have it and it is very satisfactory. The directors considered that the report of a person in the position of Superintendent of Insurance would be more valuable and give more confidence than even the reports of officers of the company. His is an independent opinion. It is laid before you with our annual report.

REPORT.

The directors beg to present their thirty-ninth annual report, and the accompanying statements and accounts of the business of the past year to 30th April last. In doing that, they have pleasure in drawing attention to the fact that the new business transacted again largely exceeds all previous years.

The number of applications for assurance was 2,634, for the sum of $5,873,456, and careful consideration of each of these resulted in the acceptance of 2,448, for $5,486, 456, with annual premiums of $188,023.51. 186 applications for assurance of $387,000, not being such as it appeared in the interest of the company to accept, were declined, and the remaining 112, for $242,000, were not completed.

The total business in existence at 30th April last was $39,511,347.44 of assurances, under 20,073 policies, upon 15,613 lives, and an annuity of $400 per annum.

As shown by the statement of receipts and payments, the income of the past year was $1,493,405.21, and after payment of all claims and other expenditure, including $455,407.16 of profits paid in cash to policy-holders, the total assets of the company were increased to $7,396,777.50.

During the year 156 deaths of assurers for $438,547.79 occurred, under 195 policies, but as the sum calculated upon was $547,633, it will be seen that the claims by death were largely under what were provided for.

The Government Insurance Department having this year made its valuation of the company's risks, as prescribed by the Insurance Act, it affords the directors much satisfaction to be enabled to submit the result of that, as communicated by the letter of the Superintendent of Insurance herewith. His valuation confirms the sound position of the company, and warrants the anticipation that the Canada Life will continue to give its policy-holders larger profits on the general average of policies than are believed to be given by any other company.

The usual dividend was paid to the proprietors during the past year.

The following directors retire from the board by rotation, but are eligible for re-election at the present time: The Hon. Mr. Justice Burton, Col. C. S. Gzowski, A.D.C. to the Queen; and N. Merritt, Esq.

(Signed) A. G. RAMSAY, President.
R. HILLS, Secretary.

The Canada Life Assurance Company,
Hamilton, Ont., 8th Sept., 1866.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS OF THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH APRIL, 1886.

Receipts.

To balance at 30th April, 1885 ..		$6,559,372 29
" Premiums received on new policies and renewals	$1,079,096 23	
" Extra risks....	1,818 93	
" Fines	473 04	
" Interest earned on investments and profits on sale of Debentures, etc.....	412,017 01	
		1,493,405 21
Add difference between Account value and Par value of Debentures..................		14,822 14
" Amounts received, being balance of items in Suspense Account awaiting arrangement		2,434 44
		$8,070,034 08

Payments.

By Expense Account..........		$ 221,629 94
" Written off Loans on Real Estate (mortgage having proved a Forgery........		2,000 00
" Liens on Half-Credit Policy written off.............		542 75
" Re-Assurance Premiums ..		3,739 37
" Claims by death	$392,928 52	
" " Matured Endowments	9,000 00	
		401,928 52
" Cancelled (purchased) policies		37,921 88
" Profits of Mutual Branch— "Bonus"....	$39,882 40	
"Cash"	305,318 57	
"Diminution of premiums"	110,206 19	
		455,407 16
" Dividends and Bonus on Stock		87,500 00
" Annuities		400 00
		$1,211,069 62
" Balance of Assets as per General Abstract of assets and liabilities		6,858,964 46
		$8,070,034 08

(Signed), A. G. RAMSAY, President.
R. HILLS, Secretary.

The Canada Life Assurance Company,
Hamilton, 3rd September, 1886.

Audited and approved,
(Signed), JAS. SYDNEY CROCKER,
Auditor.

GENERAL ABSTRACT OF THE ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF THE CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY, AS AT 30TH APRIL, 1886.

Assets.

Cash on hand, $55.15, and in banks, $161,476.45		$ 161,631 60
Mortgages on real estate—value in account..................		1,267,179 79
Debentures—value in account (par value)		
City	$520,199 54	
County	229,773 34	
Township..........	399,105 33	
Town..............	621,314 37	
Village	539,428 06	
Harber of Montreal	50,000 00	
Ontario Government subsidy	3,163 77	
Canadian Pacific land grant bonds...	375,000 00	
Canada Southern Railway guaranteed	93,073 59	
Loan Companies....	20,000 00	
Dorchester Bridge Company	6,011 43	
		$2,853,069 43
Bank stocks		543,598 23
Stock in loan companies		25,655 50
Dominion Telegraph Co stock..		5,723 50
Gas companies stock		16,565 15
Loans on policies..............		586,441 30
Loans on stocks, etc.		909,130 95
Real estate—head offices and branches		304,500 00