

gentleman and the painstaking official. A death like this is always painful to relatives and friends. . . . But when our time comes, it is always best to go quickly. None of us would

'Care to crawl, enamored of decay,
Cling to our couch, and sicken years away'

when sound in mind and body. I offer you my condolence on the loss of an amiable and courteous colleague."

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

The especial features of the report for 1892 submitted by the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada are the remarkable increase in the company's life business and the handsome surplus shown (\$244,928) over all liabilities and capital stock. The Sun has now a total at risk of \$23,901,000 under 14,718 policies. The new business of the year was the largest ever done by this company in twelve months, and the report declares it to have been larger than any Canadian company had done in any one year. Certainly the issue of 4,304 new policies, covering \$7,991,196 in one year—that is at the rate of \$25,000 per day—is something to be proud of. It is significant of the growth of Canadian institutions that the income of this one company last year was over a million (\$1,134,867), of which one-eighth was derived from interest, the net premium income being \$986,656.

Not without reason does the report lay stress upon the growth in assets, which are now nearly three and a half millions, apart from uncalculated capital, and which suffice, as we have said, to exhibit a good surplus over any liability after paying \$200,000 to policy-holders during the year. And we cannot think that the low ratio of death loss is due to "luck," as some would phrase it; there is no luck about the matter. The company must look after the character of its risks well or it could not reasonably make such a favorable showing as that its interest receipts more than pay its death claims. The announcement is made that the Sun is giving up the accident branch of its business, having arranged with the Canada Accident Company to re-insure all its risks beginning with the present year. The company is to be congratulated on having reached so great an aggregate of purely life business that it can with reason give up an accident business of between four and five millions.

LONDON LIFE COMPANY.

The reports issued by the London Life Insurance Company usually indicate steady progress and sound administration. This company does not cater to the public by offering a great variety of kinds of policies, nor does it offer greater profits than any other life underwriter, but it has for nearly twenty years gone on steadily and quietly building up its assets, which are now \$340,000, and issuing policies the aggregate of which exceeded at the close of last year three millions of dollars. It shows a surplus over all liabilities, including capital paid up, and gives satisfactory evidence of soundness and growth. Much of its business is on the industrial plan, the receipts for which last year exceeded those of the general plan. The claims arising during the year were 21 for \$18,000 on the general plan, and 193 for \$13,000 on the industrial plan, while the income of the year was \$105,469 from premiums and \$16,103 interest earning. Judging from the address of the president, the assets of the company have been rather under-

stated than otherwise, a most refreshing feature now-a-days when assets are sometimes claimed that have no existence in fact.

THE NEW AMERICAN CABINET.

Not for forty years has the American people been told by a new President plain truth in so forcible a way as by Grover Cleveland, on his inauguration, at Washington, on Saturday, the 4th instant. The nation was accustomed to be flattered on such occasions by references to their progress, the greatness, the freedom, the immense superiority of the United States. Smooth things were usually prophesied to them, and the warnings, if warnings there were, consisted in advising the people not, on pain of tremendous evils, to allow the party opposed to the speaker to get into power. Mr. Cleveland has shown himself bold and firm, as well as statesmanlike in his utterances, and there is much reason to hope that such patriotic words as his may fall on heedful ears, and that he may be supported by party and people in an effort to cure the evils which menace that great country.

The new President has evidently chosen to surround himself with practical, thorough-going business men as members of the cabinet, rather than with spread-eagle politicians. And, if their photographs are to be believed, he is the youngest American Cabinet of recent years. His Secretary of the Treasury is John Griffin Carlisle, of Kentucky; the Secretary of State, Walter Q. Gresham, of Illinois; the Secretary of War is Daniel L. Lamont, of New York; Wilson S. Bissell, of the same State, is Postmaster General; Richard Olney, of Massachusetts, is Attorney-General; Hoke Smith, of Georgia, Secretary of the Interior; Hilary A. Herbert, Alabama, Secretary of the Navy; S. S. Morton, of Nebraska, Secretary of Agriculture.

THE TELEGRAPH IN CANADA.

XXIX.

A matter which has always been of much importance to Canadian commerce and shipping is prompt and abundant telegraphic communication with the United States. And this has been had at all periods in the history of the telegraphic art since 1850 or thereabout. The Montreal Telegraph Company has since an early date had its own wires in four of the States bordering the Canadian boundary, and this company and its lessee have long had friendly connections in the wires of the Western Union Company. And the Canadian Pacific Telegraph makes a like friendly arrangement with the Postal lines in the States. Inscribed on the wall of the W. U. operating room in Chicago is this motto:

OUR GREAT COMPETITOR IS TIME.

Who the author of this motto is we have not heard, but it is not unlikely Col. R. C. Clowry, the Western superintendent of that company, a man of real executive ability and unusual energy. Its appropriateness is apparent in that great mart, where the days appear to be too short, where hurry and bustle are unending. When in the Colonel's office one day last summer, the writer was shown by Mr. Mason, his private secretary, a curiosity in the shape of an old communication-book, which had been made into a scrap book for Chicago office. "This book is as old as yourself, I daresay," said Mr. Mason, and looking for the date, it was found to be 1849. From this early record we learned that the extent of Chicago's telegraph business in the year named was bounded by very slender figures.

Speaking to one of the old operators in Toronto office of this Chicago visit, and mentioning this interesting old book, full of pen-and-ink entries of messages received and sent, pasted over which were newspaper scraps relating to telegraphs and to commercial and political affairs then current, the gentleman to whom I was speaking said: "Did you see that book? I made a scrap-book of it in 1853, when I went to Chicago as a young operator. Or rather, George Weir and I made it up. And I sent it as a curiosity to Col. Clowry only a year ago." Mr. Easson went on to describe the condition of affairs in the Great West at that time. There was but one telegraph office in Chicago (on the North West corner of Lake and Clark streets), although a number of separate telegraphic companies centered there. For example: the Cornell lines, Hotchkiss lines, Speed lines, O'Reilly lines; the Illinois and Mississippi (Caton lines). There was one general delivery, one receiving room and one operating room. In the early part of 1856 the number of operators, all told, in the now wonderful city of Chicago could be counted on the fingers of one's hands. Some time subsequently, a serious row as to the right of possession took place between Emory Cobb and Ezra Cornell, which ended in Cobb "holding the fort," Mr. Cornell with his lines having to seek new quarters. Easson having been employed by Mr. Cornell personally remained loyal to that gentleman, who secured rooms in the same building on the flat above. He had two lines of telegraph, one to Toledo and the other to Milwaukee; both ran along the highway or across the prairies. "I worked at the same table with Marvin Hughitt—now president of the Chicago and North Western Railway—before he went into the railroad business. Col. Clowry was at that time a telegrapher in St. Louis, and had already achieved renown as one of the best receivers and senders in the West. It was not the custom then for operators to receive by sound; and those who could do so and copy from Mr. Clowry at "A"—which was the "call" for St. Louis—quickly acquired an enviable reputation. Among the members of the craft whom I remember there were E. B. Stevens, Ike Downs, Charlie Bassett, George E. Weir, Superintendent, J. J. Wilson, Hiram Whipple, Steve Mason, Bob Rankin (now deceased). Fred Tubbs, now of Chicago, was in Cleveland then. He was a very rapid sender. From him I copied in 1854 an abridgment of the Presidential message of Franklin Pierce. This began to come in about 7 or 8 p.m. and I wrestled with it for the biggest part of the night. I shall never forget my feeling of relief from the trying ordeal—I was only 16—when towards day-break we got the signature "Franklin Pierce." The Manager (John Draper) complimented me; my "extra" was of a generous character. I made only one copy and I believe the Chicago Tribune got it.

A letter forty years old is looked upon as a pretty old letter in a new country. Here is one, dated at Toronto, May, 1853, which we have obtained permission to print. It sounds somewhat strangely read by the light of to-day:

"DEAR ROBERT,—You must pardon my not answering your letter sooner. I am very neglectful about writing to all my friends, I am afraid, but I think about them not any the less. I was sorry that you could not come here when I wrote you. Ben [Toye] and I got along without another assistant for a long time in hopes that you would come, but finally I got Irwin [now Toronto manager of the Canadian Express Co.] and he has been here for some time past. We are doing a great deal of telegraph business this fall, more than we ever did before, although the opposition has