of the net premiums, which were £968,043. After allowing £145,068 for commission and £162,733 for other expenses, there remains as profit the sum of £103,164. The business of the life branch is also found to be in a progressive condition. This has been especially marked since the close of the last quinquennium. New assurance for 1887 reached a total of £558,158; the total premium income was £253,891, while £3,122,012 stands at the credit of the life fund.

-Reports as to the business situation in various parts of the United States serve to emphasize one fact which, the Bulletin considers, is well worthy of consideration. It is universally stated that purchases have been marked by extreme conservatism; that stocks have been kept very low and that dealers have limited their orders to what was necessary to meet immediate demand; and yet, on the other hand, it is also conceded that the volume of general trade in July and August has been fully up to the average of past years, and has in many respects exceeded previous summers. This large volume of trade, carried on despite

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the conservatism and absence of speculative or unnecessary purchases, shows, says the journal quoted, that the actual demand and consumption have been and still are unusually large, and that as the disturbing influences of tariff agitation, uncertainty as to the crops, &c., lose their retarding power, a very satisfactory degree of activity may be expected.

-Recent accounts from Prince Edward Island are to the effect that the oat and potato crop of that island is remarkably fine all over the country, and the farmers of that gem of the gulf are correspondingly elated.

-Loud protests are heard from the fruit dealers against the recent decision of the Customs' department. They claim that their profit on perishable goods is small enough now without having to pay duty on the packages.

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