

The London Mutual Fire Insurance Company has, we are informed, retired from Prince Edward Island. Its rates for commercial risks were certainly very low, for instance:—a school was written at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for three years, and stores 2 per cent, for three years. The stock company which now has these risks gets $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 per cent. per annum respectively, which are the regular tariff rates. But then it must be remembered that the stock companies have not got farmers' notes to fall back on, if necessary, to pay the losses on commercial risks.

The Annual Report of the Insurance Inspector of Ontario is in one respect perhaps the most sorry-looking document of the kind that falls into our hands. The companies that figure in it are numerous enough almost to fill a New York report, but the aggregate of all their responsibilities would not make a first class American fire office. This is of course no reflection on the official who has charge of them, nor does it follow that his labors are light in proportion; the work of watching such a crowd of little fellows, whose principal assets are on paper, may easily be greater than that connected with an equal number of substantial corporations.—*Ins. Monitor.*

Hull, P.Q.—A correspondent sends us the following: "The corporation of Hull is making rapid progress towards protection against a recurrence of disastrous fires; since May last the council decided upon a system of water distribution throughout the more exposed parts of the city, the ground was surveyed, plans drawn, site chosen for motive power, contracts effected for construction, and the work is now so far advanced as to assure its completion before Nov. 1st next. The rebuilding is of better class, while upon the main street and principal business portions of the city all new erections must conform to fire by-law of the corporation, and be substantially first class.

The absurd notion is prevalent that life insurance premiums are already too high, and that for a small sum yearly a man can insure his life and carry it right along till he wishes to cease. If you were to ask some of these wisecracks how much they thought would be sufficient to effect such a contract, they would say, "oh about \$10 a year per \$1,000," knowing no more about the real cost of insurance than does a waggon, and caring, perhaps, less. The real fact is, that if the rates of interest keep on decreasing as they have, the rates for life insurance will shortly have to be advanced, as the premiums will have to be calculated on three or three and a half per cent. interest. The premiums are as low as they can be made and make the contract sure.—*Argus, Chicago.*

The Colonel's Life Insurance.—"A reliable gentleman of Charlotte, N. C., whose name we will give upon proper demand, writes us, under date of July 2, as follows: "The late Col. J. M. Ivey, of Rock Hill, S. C., was 'insured' in these two concerns (the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association and the Mutual Trust Fund Life Association). He died September 11, 1885, and his policy in the Mutual Reserve was adjusted a few days ago at fifty cents on a dollar; while in the other company his representatives have so far been unable to realize anything, but, I understand, are offered thirty cents on a dollar. Col. Ivey had two policies in the Equitable, which were paid (to Williams, Black & Co., of New York) the day the proofs were received."—*Insurance, N. Y.*

The population of Victoria and New South Wales:—According to a telegram just received, the population of Victoria, which stood at 973,403 in June 1885, and at 991,839 in December last, now exceeds 1,000,000. At the same time, we may mention that according to the returns recently given in these columns, the population of New South Wales in December last was 980,573, having increased

59,305 in 1885. At the same rate of increase in 1886, the population of New South Wales on the 30th of this month will be 1,000,341, so that it may be said that both colonies have reached their seventh figure together. These estimates will, it should be pointed out, be open to adjustment when the next census is taken, the estimates from year to year not always having been found to be very accurate, but it may be taken for granted that these two colonies are both of them reaching the million in course of the current year.—*British Australasian.*

Loss of Life at Sea.—By a return issued recently we learn the number of masters and seamen lost in vessels belonging to the United Kingdom by sea casualties during each of the nine years ended 30th June, 1885, excluding lives lost in Her Majesty's ships and fishing vessels. The lives lost in steam vessels in 1876-77, the first year of the series, was 509, and in sailing vessels 1,220. They decreased to 455 and 781 respectively in 1877-78, but rose in 1881-82 to 913 and 1,508 respectively, these being the highest totals in one year during the whole period covered by the return. The lowest total loss of life was in 1884-85, the last year in the return, when the loss by steamships was 666, and by sailing ships 551. The number of lives lost at sea in fishing vessels, both steam and sailing, was 313 in 1876-77, while in the three following years it dropped to 81, 61, and 73 respectively, springing up again in 1880-81 to 326, and in 1881-82 to 590, since when it has gradually decreased to 160 in 1884-85.

The contingent commission plan no doubt often works very satisfactorily, but it does not seem to have done so in the case of Lorenzo Dimick, of Buffalo. He represented the Continental, Thames and Mersey, the Union and Insurance Company of Pennsylvania, and did for them a very large inland marine business. He has, however, been convicted of felony and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary, for having deliberately reinsured a large amount of the business of the Continental, after knowing that the vessels had been lost. If no loss occurred the Continental got the full premium, but if a loss did occur it had only to pay a small fraction of the sum assured, all the balance having been considerably reassured by Dimick in his other companies at the last moment. It is alleged that he followed this course for the purpose of securing the large contingent commission offered by the Continental, which was his favorite company. It is only fair, however, to add that the Continental claims to believe still that Mr. Dimick is innocent.

The Amicable of London Eng. In September, 1885, the flour mill of Rush & Sprague at Leavenworth, Kan., was destroyed, proving a total loss, with nearly \$70,000 insurance. Among the policies held by the firm was one for \$3000 in the Amicable of London, issued by Grubb, Paxton & Co., attorneys for the United States. Proofs were made and submitted to them, but the claim was not paid. In January, 1886, Rush & Sprague sent their attorney to Indianapolis to collect the claim from the attorneys. He was given a draft on the home office of the company in London, and also an agreement that if said draft was not paid when presented they (Grubb, Paxton & Co.) would pay the claim themselves. The London draft was returned protested, with a statement under official seal that he was unable to find either the company or its reputed officials. Thereupon Rush & Sprague drew a draft on G., P. & Co., which was also returned protested. On the 7th inst. a suit was instituted in the Superior Court at Indianapolis to enforce the agreement, wherein Grubb, Paxton & Co. made themselves personally liable, Finch & Finch being plaintiff's attorneys.—*Investigator, Chicago.*

Ignorance of Fire Insurance.—Many average people, says Insurance Commissioner Oliver Pillsbury, of New