

SOCIETY NOTES AND ITEMS.

Eleven Insurance men, according to the *U. S. Review*, committed suicide in 1884.

Mr. J. C. Smith has been appointed agent at Lindsay for the London and Lancashire Life.

The Losses by fire in the United States for January are estimated at \$8,500,000. This is an increase over January, 1884.

It is rumored that the **London Assurance Corporation** contemplate establishing an agency at St. John, N.B. Here is a chance for a good man.

Mr. J. B. Lawlor of Vankleek Hill, has been appointed general agent for the London and Lancashire Life for Vankleek Hill and District.

Mr. Joseph S. Belcher, of Halifax, N. S., was re-elected president of the Merchants Marine Insurance Co. of Halifax, at the annual meeting held on the 27th ult.

Paper Mill Risks.—The losses paid by insurance companies upon paper mills in the United States are said to exceed the premiums received by about 60 per cent.

We have to express our thanks to J. Howard Hunter, Esq., Inspector of Insurance for Ontario, for a bound volume of Ontario Report for the year 1883.

Mr. B. Hal. Brown, Inspector for the London and Lancashire Life Insurance Co. is to have his head-quarters at Montreal in future, instead of at Toronto as heretofore.

The Insurance on the Life of the Late Earl of Aylesford is likely to cause some litigation. The companies concerned will likely decline to pay any portion of it.

New Fire Office.—It is rumored that Mr. D. Marshall Lang, late general manager of the Commercial Union, is about to organize a new fire office, to be called the "Victor."

There are anxious enquiries after the People's Mutual Benefit Association of Boston. The *Standard* says: "Sundry persons now mourn and refuse to be comforted because it is not."

The Mutual Provident Association, another assessment concern has been merged into the United States Benefit Association. "This step," according to a "circular issued, has been taken after mature deliberation by the officers."

The Liverpool and London & Globe—The income of this company in the United States for the year 1884 was \$3,814,347.92; the losses and expenses amounted to \$3,240,962.44. The profit on the year's business was \$573,962.44.

Mr. R. J. Halle, of the firm of Harper & Halle, the well-known insurance agents of Chatham, Ont., left per White Star Line for England on the 21st inst. He will return some time in May with, we trust, renewed health and vigor.

The Post Magazine Almanac—We have received a copy of this publication for the current year, which contains a directory of all insurance companies, a summary of new life business of British companies for several years, as well as other valuable statistics and information.

The Mercantile Mutual Accident Association of Boston, Mass.—A correspondent wants some information with reference to this institution. Beyond the fact that it is not licensed to transact business in Canada we know nothing of it. Perhaps some of our exchanges would enlighten us?

A Denial.—We have seen a letter in which Mr. McCall, the New York Superintendent of Insurance, denies that he told the Canadian deputation which waited on him that the Mutual Reserve Fund Association of New York was "sure to succeed." He says: "I did not so state."

Ten years ago, says the *Insurance Critic*, the average premiums in this country on all classes of risks was 98 cents per \$100. At the present time the average reaches but 83 cents per \$100. If the fire losses had diminished in equal proportion with the rates the condition would be highly satisfactory.

London, Ont.—The losses by fire in London, Ont., during 1884 amounted to \$25,895, the amount of insurance involved was \$371,375, the number of alarms was 74. The losses in 1883 amounted to \$23,603, the number of alarms being 77. Mr. C. C. Roe, the excellent chief of the fire brigade, recommends the purchase of another hose carriage.

Then and now.—Formerly it used to be the railroads that were made the target of legislators, but as these corporations grew stronger and stronger they finally reached a point when they owned legislatures, and they have never lost their grip. As insurance companies are not in the business of buying up legislatures, they are made the butt for legislative attacks.—*The Item*.

A Comparison.—On February, 12th inst., we received the annual report of the Ontario Inspector of Insurance for the year ending Dec. 31st, 1883. On Feb., 23rd inst., we received the annual report of New York State, (containing at least five times as much as the Ontario Report) for the year ending December 31st, 1884.

Mutual Life Insurance Company, N.Y.—During the year 1884 the Mutual Life issued 11,194 policies, insuring \$34,675,989. The total amount in force at the end of the year was \$357,789,285. The premium income was \$13,850,258; the total assets amount to \$103,876,278; and the surplus over liabilities is over \$12,000,000. It is a grand institution.

The Hon. Alexander McKenzie, in a recent speech, very aptly said: "A class of co-operative life insurance companies has recently sprung up, in which we have no confidence ourselves, and in which the public should have but little confidence, for no cheapness can make up for the false principles upon which these associations are generally formed and conducted."

It gives us much pleasure to state that the Directors of the Citizens Insurance Company have declared a dividend at the rate of six per cent. per annum on its paid-up capital for the year 1884. General Manager Hart is to be congratulated on achieving this result. The Citizens has honorably met and paid all its claims, including those serious conflagrations of St. John, etc., and is deserving of the patronage of the Canadian public.

St. Jean Baptiste Village and Cote St. Louis—On the twenty-third inst. a fifteen thousand dollar blaze took place in St. Jean Baptiste Village. According to the *Montreal Herald*, "the fire engines of Cote St. Louis and St. Jean Baptiste Village were not in working order, whilst the water supply was execrable." The Underwriters Association should take cognizance of this fact, and increase the rates accordingly.