

words the bulk of the opinions offered, we would say that the basic causes of failures among business men are:—1. Lack of preparation. 2. Lack of principle. To the first of these can be traced the incompetency, discontent, "non-stick-to-it-iveness," and want of systematic economy, which are so noticeable among business men of to-day. To the second may be attributed the dishonesty, self-indulgence, greed of gain, and the long train of vices which too often pass for shrewd business tact.

PREMIUM NOTES IN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANIES.

A correspondent has asked us whether or not a person insuring in a mutual fire insurance company is entitled to pay more than the full amount or face value of the premium note.

The assured in such a company is liable for his proper proportion of all the losses and expenses of the company, to the extent of his premium note. If the premium note capital is not sufficient for this purpose, the balance of the loss must be borne by the assured. At one time the assured was also liable in addition to the face value of his premium note, for a further sum of one per cent. on the amount insured. If his policy was for \$1,000, his liability on it was \$10. This part of the original Insurance Act was repealed some years ago. In a well managed mutual fire insurance company which carries on its business in compliance with the law, the probability of failure to pay its losses in full is very remote. The trouble with such defunct companies as the Reliance Mutual, the Royal Mutual, and others of that class, was that their business was carried on, if not against the letter, certainly against the spirit of the law. The amount of the note premium taken by such companies was very little in excess of the cash premium of a stock company, whereas in companies like the Gore Mutual and the Waterloo, the amount of premium note for a three-year's insurance is four times the annual cash premium of a stock company. In companies of this description there is very little danger of the premium note capital becoming inadequate to meet all probable losses and expenses.

INSURANCE NOTES.

As to village fire protection, the Rochester Herald has the following apt remarks: "Occasionally we read of disastrous fires in small towns which were not provided with either a suitable fire department or an adequate water supply. The ordinary village is composed of wooden structures, both for residence and business purposes. The business part of the town is generally built compactly and affords an inviting field for the ravages of fire when it once gets fairly started. Every village should have a fire department and water supply for fire purposes. After a destructive fire the citizens of such places wake up to the importance of such provisions. That, indeed, has been the experience of nearly all the country towns which now have facilities and the organization for extinguishing fires. In the aggregate hundreds of thousands of dollars are annually sacrificed to the carelessness and neglect of village authorities in this direction. A little forethought and public spirit on the part of those authorities would prevent a vast amount of suffering and loss.

A decision which has made a stir among marine underwriters in the lake cities and towns is that of Mr. Justice Stanley Matthews, of the United States Supreme Court, sitting at Detroit, in the case of the schooner *John Wesley*. The companies had refused a constructive total loss

of the vessel because the actual damage, as computed, was a few cents less than half the total insurance. The owners, against the ruling of the companies, abandoned the vessel to them, threw her on their hands and sued for total loss. Justice Matthews decided that vessel owners can recover under total loss in spite of the usual (and often outrageous) practice of insurance companies, and gives the owners of the *Wesley* \$10,365.98. The policy was \$10,000. This decision, says the *Chicago Times*, is a total revolution in marine insurance, and breaks up a practice as old as lake navigation. The contests pending for a long time past on the large steamers *Manitoba* and *Spartan* and the schooner *F. J. Mowry* are settled by this decision in favor of the owners and against the companies.

Inconsistency of the most striking character is embodied in the endless complaints against advanced rates for fire insurance. The public has no right to complain of impositions self-imposed. If the people choose, by wilful neglect of the most ordinary precautions; by absolutely criminal carelessness, by the encouragement and increase in encouraging fire displays which reach a round \$100,000,000 per year in losses, then let them pay the bill of expense in the shape of insurance at rates equal to the increased risk. They have no right to increase losses at the expense of the underwriters. If the people will have such an immense ash-heap, let them pay for the luxury themselves, and not complain longer of the imposition of insurance.—*Insurance News*.

Life insurance is a bridge, spanning the uncertain years wherein we hope to achieve success. What calamity may lie in the loss of a single life! What loss of hope to those who have trusted, and never had a fear; what dismay when the grim specter *Want* is thought of, for the first time, as a swift approaching enemy; when home is to be dismantled and a family separated! Every day in the year asserts this story, but here is the bridge. Deep and strong are the foundations of its piers, solid its mighty arch. Buy your family a ticket, friend, over this grand structure, to be used in case of need. They may not need it, you say. May be not. Let us hope not. But, then, if they should need it, how very much they would need it. Better be on the safe side and prepare for possible trouble. And don't buy a scalper's ticket because of a promise of cheapness. Buy the genuine! Insure! Don't trust to a collection to be taken up after you are dead and gone; but secure the family absolutely, now.—*Insurance*.

—The amount of breadstuffs exports, last year, with those of the previous year, is of moment at present, seeing that so much interest is felt in the subject of the crops. The *New York Shipping List* has the following about United States exports: To all ports in the world we have shipped a total of 7,919,549 barrels of flour, against 7,905,337 barrels crop year ending September 1, 1883, an increase of 13,712 barrels. Of corn meal, the shipments for the past year have been 216,524 barrels, against 280,424 barrels the previous year, a decrease of 63,900 barrels. We sent forward the past year 70,782,351 bushels of wheat, against 92,320,896 bushels for 1882-83, a decrease of 21,538,548 bushels. The shipments of corn also show a considerable falling off, being 86,068,047 bushels the past year, against 47,459,142 bushels the preceding year a decrease of 14,391,095 bushels. Of rye, the figures are somewhat more favorable, say 5,516,575 bushels for this year, against 4,457,490 bushels for 1883, an increase of 1,059,085 bushels. The crop year, for which these figures are given, ends with September 1st.

—A long-felt and generally-recognized want in Manitoba—"a bank under local control, and not subject to outside perturbations and fluctuations," is, says the *Winnipeg Free Press* of 26th ult., proposed to be supplied by the Commercial Bank of Manitoba for which stock subscriptions are invited. "Whoever can successfully float a local bank in Manitoba, continues the *Free Press* are a little short of philanthropists, and does not hesitate to pronounce the undertaking a foregone success. Mr. Duncan Macarthur and other well-known Winnipeg gentlemen is being prepared to devote much time to the service and interests of the proposed bank. It may be doubted how far a bank can be free from outside perturbations and fluctuations, since from the very nature of its business it must be affected by whatever disturbs the money market, which, with deference to the *Free Press*, does not centre in Winnipeg. It would be hardly less correct to say that a local firm which should deal in manufactured fur goods in that city would before from the perturbations felt by the Leipzig market, or the fluctuations of furs in the London market, or that a merchant in cotton goods at the capital of Manitoba, need not care what was done by the mills at Montreal or for the price of the staple at New Orleans or Liverpool.

—Reducing the production of pig iron in the United States, continues to engage attention, and only twenty-six mills out of 350, oppose the movement. A despatch from Pittsburg, dated August 31, says: "It was expected that the work of classifying the replies to the circular proposing suspension of work at the blast furnaces would be completed, and the result given out publicly to-day, but owing to all the replies not yet being in, it has been decided to postpone the announcement of the result for a day or two. Thus far 325 replies have been received. Of this number, seventeen, with 443,500 tons capacity, are owned by mills which use all the metal made, and eighteen stacks, with 318,500 tons capacity, running to fill contracts, are in the market, and therefore do not affect it. Of the remainder, 182 stacks, with 1,894,980 tons capacity, are idle, and agree to remain so; eighty stacks, with 1,092,115 tons capacity, agree in one form or another, to the plan proposed; twenty-six stacks, with 309,805 tons capacity, do not subscribe to the agreement.

—A new and somewhat complicated state of things has come about in the tea market, owing to the difficulties between France and China. Referring to the serious news received in London on the 21st ult., Messrs. J. Lewenz & Co. say in their tea letter of 22nd ult.:

"The tea market without, having as yet given way to actual excitement has certainly become exceedingly sensitive. So far, the effect has been a largely increased demand for all grades of Congou teas, under 1/- in particular, and wherever merchants were willing to accept late rates business has readily resulted. Generally, however, holders of new as well as old season's imports are now advancing their prices, and this has led to a good turnover, business being done in second-hand teas, especially in Foochow Congou up to 8d., which must now be quoted $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1d per lb dearer. The lowest quotations to-day are 6d for low common old season's Red-leaf at 5d; for the lowest grade of old season's Shantaam, the former showing a rise of 1d, the latter of $\frac{3}{4}$ d per lb since last month. The first new season's green teas arrived during the week and the whole consisting of about one quarter million pounds, mostly Pingsneys, were disposed of at auction during the week, with a hurry hardly ever before witnessed, and of course sold too early to profit by the improvement in the general tone of the market, consequent upon the war news. Although opening rates at the first sales on Monday were rather lower than last year, a decline of $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1d per lb. all around was established before the