

Osaka.

Osaka, with a population of nearly 900,000, is the second largest city in Japan. It is by some called the "Venice of Japan," and by others the "Manchester of Japan." It is both; for its canals and bridges give to it a suggestion of Venice, and the activity of its manufacturing industries give it a resemblance to the busy English city. Osaka has an interesting history. Away back in 1583 it was the military capital, and in Osaka Castle, which still stands, much of Japanese history was made. Within its walls the last acts of the Shogunate were played, and with its surrender the Restoration began. Regarding the famous Osaka Castle Rudyard Kipling writes: "Castles in India I know, and the forts of great emperors I have seen; but neither Akbar in the north, nor Scindia in the south, had built after this fashion—without ornament, without color, but with a single eye to strength and the utmost purity of line."

Although Osaka is no longer the military capital, it is generally conceded to be the industrial capital, and it may be said to be but in its infancy as regards its industrial development. With the completion, in 1905, of a new harbor and docks now under construction, at a cost of yen 25,000,000, it will make even more rapid progress. It is central in its location, being surrounded by cities of importance and having good railway connections. Prominent among the manufactures of Osaka may be named bronze, metal, carpets and silk.

For the tourist the city has much of interest, the more important sights being the Castle, Tennoji Temple and Pagoda, the Mint, the Arsenal and Aquarium. A visitor should not miss visiting the Rice Exchange; it is the most exciting stock-market of its kind in Japan. The industrial exhibition, now open, will be a great benefit to Osaka as well as to

other districts of Japan, and Canadians are pleased to note that Canada has an excellent exhibit there, and is well represented by its Minister of Agriculture, the Honorable Sydney Fisher.



From the Insurance Monitor, New York.

"Life assurance men in this country have long been aware that our neighbor on the north, the Dominion of Canada, has some life companies that hold rank with the best in the world, and their interest in these institutions has increased greatly since several of them have entered the United States for business.

"One of the most prominent of the Canadian companies is the Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, at Montreal, which is now operating in many States on this side of the border, and is coming more and more into favor with both agents and assurants in the United States.

"The success of the Sun Life of Canada is due to the attractiveness of the contracts it offers, and to the results to policyholders which it is able to show. Its president, Mr. Robertson Macaulay, is recognized as an underwriter of unusual ability, and in the introduction of improvements in policy contracts he has been a pioneer and a leader in Canada. The Sun Life of Canada was the first Canadian company to simplify its policies by eliminating all the numerous and hampering restrictions which formerly were regarded as necessary. When it brought out its first unconditional policy, other Canadian companies refused to follow suit; but in time the favorable experience of the Sun Life of Canada under this policy, and its great strength in competition, influenced them to adopt similar forms.

"The Company's policies are varied. They are all unconditional, indisputable, and automatically nonforfeitable, and