

find takers till all available private lands, obtainable at a moderate price, were taken up.

It does seem desirable that in the case of endowment lands, some portions, here and there, should be reserved from sale. A small piece of land held by the University of Toronto in this city actually counts for a considerable portion of its endowment, but revenue necessities are going to compel a sale. This is the strain under which the leasing system, when tried on a large scale, in Canada, has always broken down. Still it might be possible to preserve some fragments of school lands, care being taken to make good selections as to position and future prospects. The rule must be, no doubt, that the sale of these lands must go on as usual; in no other way can they be made productive. But though this applies to the mass, it is not universally true, and the exceptions form a good opportunity for experiment, on a small scale, not with a view to wide extensions, but as a means of drawing exceptional revenue in a few favorable instances.

THE YOUNG MAN AND HIS ATTIRE.

It is not proposed in this short article to discuss foolish dudes or dandies; as we have not in Canada very many to the acre of that sort of young man. But it is rather desired to notice the young man outside of business hours, in his play-time, at his recreation. We recognize that there is of late years a somewhat greater attention paid by young men to their outing attire. To live in the present age is, compared with thirty years ago, a blessing for those who desire an outdoor life. The long day and night confinement of country store clerks has been lessened. The hours of labor in warehouse and office have been shortened. There is such a thing as a Saturday afternoon half-holiday, and the young man has a better chance for the occasional freedom which conduces to health. Does he take it? "You bet he does," as the boys say, and he takes it in style. Is he a tennis player, he must have his "blazer" on and his tennis shoes. Is it foot-ball he engages in—he must have his jersey, colored and probably striped. For cricket, white flannel; for lacrosse, trunks and hose and little else, the very airiest of attire; for boating, unless on ladies' day, when brass buttons on blue or white cloth are *de rigueur*, there is not much attention paid to clothing, for the yachtsman is happiest in shirt and trousers. But for riding and driving, fashion has decreed that extreme care must be given to the detail of man's dress, whether he be young or elderly. Lawn bowls and golf seem to be about the only games now in favor, players of which do not require a distinctive dress.

A feature in outing dresses for men has been that they were often loud in color: witness the flannel blazers, the hat-ribbon, the club colors, the silk sash, all high-colored. This may be, as our New York contemporary put it in an article quoted elsewhere, that "life looks bright and cheerful to the young; the high-colored and fanciful in art, as well as in dress, is quick to catch the eye." Besides, the young are

apt to imitate. But we now learn that whereas for several seasons past, the blazer, fancy flannel shirts, lurid sashes, etc., have had the call, they have been this year somewhat toned down; experience seems to have mellowed either the popular taste or the taste of the designers and makers of such goods. Certainly judgment and better taste prevails both in men's and women's outing wear.

Tailors and outfitters are constantly devising something new for the coming season, and special garbs for special periods of the year appear to be in order. In this respect our young men seemingly imitate the customs of older countries. "Young ladies and gentlemen taking their outings and their enjoyments, says the *Dry Goods Chronicle*, attired in these fanciful and multi-colored costumes, certainly present a pleasing and picturesque appearance, but for the coming season there will be more of a subdued effect noticeable in the outing wearing apparel of both sexes. The florid will have given place to the plain, and extremes will not mark the season." There is, of course, by tacit consent, an appropriateness in wearing a dress suited to a game; it adds to the player's comfort. But the extravagant folly which makes the game a mere peg on which to hang one's gorgeous clothes, should be discouraged.

FIRE INSURANCE IN CANADA.

Although the Superintendent of Insurance has described as "subject to correction" the figures relating to insurance companies doing business in Canada, which find place in his Abstract of Statements just received, we presume it will be reasonably safe to consider the totals of them as substantially accurate for purposes of comparison. It will be instructive to take, for example, the premiums of all fire companies for a series of years, and compare them with the fire losses for the same period. Thus for the twelve years, 1869 to 1880, the total premiums received were \$36,285,000, and the losses for the same twelve years were \$29,276,000, or more than 80 per cent. Taking another period of ten years, from 1881 to 1890 inclusive, we find the premiums to have been \$49,557,895—representing nearly two millions per annum more premiums and \$205,000,000 per annum more new risks taken—while the losses were \$30,540,000. There is thus a marked improvement in the results of the business done, the ratio of loss in the later ten years being only 61.6 of the premiums, where in the earlier twelve years of the twenty-two under review they exceeded 80 per cent.

The totals of a summary of the fire underwriting business done by all companies for the years from 1869 to 1890 inclusive, shows the proportion done by the Canadian and other companies, thus:

PREMIUMS FOR 22 YEARS.	
Canadian companies	\$24,809,880
British	54,150,916
American	6,882,832
Total	\$85,843,628
LOSSES PAID DURING 22 YEARS.	
Canadian companies	\$17,751,889
British	37,465,906
American	4,598,433
Total	\$59,816,228

AMOUNT OF POLICIES TAKEN.	
Canadian companies	\$2,577,563,893
British	5,687,607,021
American	676,781,717
Total	\$8,941,952,631

AMOUNT AT RISK AT DATE OF STATEMENT.	
Canadian companies	\$3,143,168,000
British	5,865,023,000
American	797,954,000

The average rate of premiums per cent. of risks taken is shown by the Superintendent to have been during the year 1890 as follows:—

Canadian companies	1.16 per cent.
British	1.12 " "
American	1.07 " "

The ratio of losses paid to premiums received was as under in the different groups of companies:

Canadian companies	59.13 per cent.
British	52.91 " "
American	57.81 " "

The percentage of expenses to premiums shows as under in the British and American insurance companies. The Canadian we cannot give, for the expenses in the States of the large Canadian companies are included in the totals of Canadian business:—

Canadian companies	27.30
British	30.54
American	

The expenses of Canadian companies range from 10 per cent. to 88: probably the average is not far from 30.

ASSESSMENT LIFE ASSURANCE—CONTINUED.

IOWA MUTUAL AID.

This is the name of a ten-year old assessment society in Ottumwa, Iowa, which has gone under a wave from stress of weather, and is being cared for by the Howard Aid Association of Indianapolis. The Iowa's membership during the past three years stood nearly stationary at 1,482, 1,540, and 1,708; but its deaths ran up this way:—\$12,130, \$22,904, and \$34,038 in those years. It had no assets to fall back upon, but the Howard Aid has \$8,384, which amount will not go far in meeting heavy losses. The Howard has only 868 members itself, though it is thirteen years old.

FAMILY FUND SOCIETY.

Such is the name of a New York city assessment association, six years old, which has recently come to grief, its membership of 2,533 in the year 1885 having dropped away to 958 at present, its death losses doubling during the same time, and the cost of insurance per \$1,000 jumping up from \$6.50 to \$23.20.

PROVIDENT FUND SOCIETY.

This is also a New York society which is getting along better than the other Fund Society, and claims to have \$23,017 of assets for its 7,599 members. It has now absorbed the American Accident Indemnity Association, which was formerly doing a flourishing business in accidents, but has now given up the contest.

OTHER ASSOCIATIONS.

We have not space to mention more of these small society failures. Most of them were unknown outside of their own countries or States, and will not be seriously