ment of Cape Breton was the maintenance of a host of officials beyond all measure.

Of course he refers to the very early days, as remote as 1809. The revenue then was about £2,000, voted by Parliament, and devoted to the payment of salaries of officials, whose duties were more or less nominal, and thus there was nothing left for the construction of roads and other necessary works. Mr. Brown is authority for the statement that Lord Castlereagh, when Secretary of State, ordered a list of officers in the Island to be sent to him. The list was sent to England in 1809, where it was pigeon-holed, for nothing came of it. The total emoluments of this list was £3,475 2s., exclusive of the Governor's salary, which was £800. The population of the Island then was only four or five thousand sonls.

The coal mines were worked eighty years ago by the government, but with little advantage; the profit, according to a report sent to the Secretary of State on July 1, 1811. being only 1s. 8d. per chaldron. The sales only averaged 6,000 chaldron per annum He also gives certain data connected with the coal trade sales in 1813 : cash received on account of sales £8,006 1s. 4d., and charges paid for salaries £6,008 3s. 11d. Under Fitzherbert, who succeeded Lieut. Col. Swayne, the island made more progress. The returns sent in for the year ending December 31, 1816, with the value of merchandise entered at the ports of Sydney, Arichat and Ship Harbor, amounted to \$83,724.70 and the exports to \$53,880, and the amount of articles exported, the actual produce of the island, did not exceed \$38,783.83, consisting principally of chaldrons of coal and quintals of cod fish, pickled fish, fish oil, staves, butter, firewood and furs, sheepskins and blubber of porpoise.

Some disaffection arose through the imposition of a tax of one shilling per gallon on rum. In 1816 Leaver and Ritchie resisted (payment of it, were tried and acquitted. This led to the annexation of the Island to Nova Scotia, which took place in 1820.

Dr. Bourinot in his new book presents facts and figures relating to the trade of the Island, selected from early records, from the Archives Coloniales de la Marine in Paris, and Isle Royale. "From the Gut of Canso, down along the shore of Louisbourg, and thence to the north-west of Cape Breton, there were yearly employed at least 500 shallops. These required on sea and shore three men each, which amounted to 2,500 men, and 60 brigantines, schooners and sloops, each of fifteen men, making 900 men.

"Besides all these, there were constantly from the river Sendre, O'Lone, Le Poton, Hone (France), from 16 to 200 sail employed in the mud fishing. Each of these carried home on an average of from 22,000 to 30,000 fish, and requiring 150 ships manned by 3,000 men. These ships were fitted out in France, and were more or less employed in the Cape Breton trade. A large quantity of train oil was also produced from the trade, and this oil always had a ready sale in France. The quantity of oil produced from 100 quintals of fish

was one hogshead of 60 gallons, clear drawn out from the blubber. This from the large quantity already mentioned would produce 11,400 hogsheads of oil. The total yield of oil for the year 1753 was 12,465 hogsheads."

NEW LIFE IDEAS.

There was held in London last month an extraordinary general meeting of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of England. Its purpose was to adopt a series of articles of association in substitution of the original deed of settlement, upon the basis of which the corporation had been formed in the year 1763. The meeting was first addressed by Mr. A. F. Burridge, F.I.A., the actuary of the society, who said:—

"In life assurance, no less than in other businesses, the requirements of the public changed from time to time, and, admirable as were the provisions of the deed, which was drawn 130 years ago, its authors would, he conceived, be the last persons to suppose that its clauses would satisfy the wants of the present day. Proof of this was found during a series of years in the declining business of the society, which, however, had since been increased by special exertions which they had made. The great cause of difficulty was that they could not offer those forms of life insurance which they were now asked for. He might tell them that forty per cent. or fifty per cent. of the new business of other life offices was of a class which, with the present restricted powers of this society, the Equitable Life of England was unable to touch. No argument could successfully be adduced why this society should not grant assurances in those forms which were now asked for, and which the directors, in the interests of the members, were recommending them to grant. The powers which the directors were proposing to take were not excessive. Speaking under a due sense of responsibility, and with an experience of twentythree years of life assurance business, he deliberately said that they were not wider than the necessities of the case demanded."

Like sensible people the meeting, which consisted of some sixty persons, unanimously adopted the resolution proposing the new basis of association which should take the place of the restrictive rules of the old. This had long prevented the old Equitable doing kinds of business on which the newer companies thrive. Men's ideas have much changed and broadened on life assurance as on other subjects in a century and a quarter. Life offices must, if they would do an extensive business, offer a variety of policies and vary their methods of payment.

MANITOBA TRADE.

The annual report of Mr. Taylor, the United States consul at Winnipeg, is, as usual, full of most interesting statistics relating to the trade of Manitoba and our Great West. The consular district of Winnipeg is made up of three divisions—the eastern, or Port Arthur district; the central, or the district of Manitoba, to which York Factory and other ports on the western coast of Hudson Bay make their returns; and the Northwest Territories

with a consular agency at Fort MacLeod. The whole district thus having an area of about 800,000 square miles, with a population of 200,000 civilized, and 55,000 aborigines. The foreign imports of this wide district for the fiscal year 1891 have been as follows:—

		Dutiable.	Free.	Total.
	Manitoba	\$1,953,469	\$842,337	\$2,795,806
1	Port Arthur	374,362	114,505	
	Northwest		,	
	Tonnitonica	155 046	157 770	919 095

Total.... \$2,483,077 \$1,114,621 \$3,597,698

To the report has been appended a table which gives an interesting comparison of goods imported into Manitoba and York, from the United States and Great Britain respectively. The aggregate from the United States was \$1,214,665, while that from Great Britain has been \$655,023; in comparison with the figures of last year's report, we find that while the imports from the United States have decreased by \$206,330, a matter of 17 per cent., those of Great Britain have increased \$73,915 in value, which is equal to more than 11 per cent. Below we give the values of some of the main items in the table with comparisons:—

	From	From
	he U. S.	Gt. Britain.
Baking powder	21,067	g 2
Books	20,908	7,313
Breadstuffs	42,423	5,614
Coal, bituminous	31,866	
Copper, manufactures of	10,627	85,947
Fruits, dried, and nuts.	46,583	674
Fruits, green	94.624	128
Iron, manufactures of	243,879	14,371
Steel, " "	32,398	28,367
Leather, " "	21,054	2,047
Oils, mineral	21,021	8
Papers, and manufact. of	22,516	5,520
Provisions	117,981	4,421
Silk, and manufact. of	1,662	41,453
Telephones	26,534	: ;;
Wood, and manufact, of.	83,587	2.144
Wood, " " "	1,973	255,547
•	,	

The total values of dutiable imports coming from other countries amounted to \$83,781, the principal items of which were: window glass from Belgium, \$11,739; spirits from France, \$10,475; cotton manufactures from Germany, \$4,481; dried fruits and nuts from Spain, \$4,198; silk goods, fancy goods and china from Japan.

An estimate of the exports from the three divisions of the consular district is given

To the	To Great	matal.
U. S.	Britain.	Tota 953
Manitoba \$1,022,25	1 \$589,704	Total. \$1,611,953 304,753
Port Arthur 275,13	29,621	304,794
NW. Territ's 4,794	4	4,10

Total....\$1,302,176 \$619,325 \$1,921,499

The exports from Manitoba to Greek Britain included \$540,052 worth of furs and \$29,116 worth of wheat. To the United States the exports consisted mostly of the following: Fish, \$97,938; horses, \$97,900; buffalo bones, \$20,091; furs, \$74,749, hides, \$5,858; wheat \$544,927 (passing in bond to Canada and Europe); vegetables, \$92,866 (nearly all pots toes); seneca root, \$20,257. Then there was \$8,533 worth of iron manufactures and \$3,257 worth of musical instruments; clothing \$11, 493. The value of goods sent to other could sent tries than these two was very trifling. Fish from the great lakes and rivers connecting with Hudson's Bay are sent to St. Paul, Minne apolis, Chicago, Denver and New York, principally pally whitefish, pickerel, jackfish and sturgeon. During the year trade has been done with twenty countries, the principal of which are the following:
Imports

Imports Exports Total 176
Canada . . . \$7,195,176 \$10,000,000 \$17,195,145
U. S . . . 2,745,789 1,302,356
G. Britain . . 729,184 589,704 71,318,868