fee for a fire company is $200 for a life company, $250 an accident or marine company, $200 and $100 each for other classes of business. In North Carolina the license for life companies is $250; for fire, marine and accident, $200, and all others, $100. In Wisconsin the life companies' license fee is $300.

The various fees charged comprise: filing power of attorney, $5, filing notice of appointment of agent, $5; filing bond of agent, $5; filing annual statement, $20 to $100; filing any other paper required by law to be filed, $5. Besides these charges there are such as: "Certificate of deposit of securities," "Certificate of authority to agent of life insurance company," $5; "Certificate of payment of maximum," $5; "Certificate as to capital," $5. Then we have fees for license to travelling agent, $10; to local agent, $5.

A number of States impose a tax on "gross premiums," or, "on net receipts," 2 per cent. being the usual rate; in Iowa, it is 2 1-2 per cent.

It is curious to read of "retaliatory provisions" in regard to such a business as insurance transacted in the same country. Each American State, however, seems to regard each other American State as a foreign power, so that, if one such State imposes a tax on insurance companies chartered by another State higher than what is imposed on the companies of the latter State, then the "retaliatory provisions" come into play, and the law of "tit for tat," as children say, is put into force.

The Superintendent of Insurance for the several States of the Republic would do a much needed work were they to secure more uniformty in the treatment of insurance companies. More especially is it desirable that their influence should be exerted towards securing a more rational and equitable system of taxing insurance business and eliminating these features which are oppressive and therefore restrictive. Some of the taxes in the United States seem inspired by the opinion that fire and life insurance companies are injurious enterprises, which it is the duty of the State, as far as possible, to restrain.

FIRE IN ST. CUNEGONDE R. C. CHURCH.

By the fire which occurred on the 18th instant, in the above church, the following Companies are interested:

	Building.	Contents.	Presbytery
Commercial Union........	$4,400	600	......
Fabric Mutual............	18,0^0	....	7,000
Guardian..................	26,000	....	5,000
Phœnix of Hartford......	9,400	600	......
Royal	19,500	....	......
	$77,300	$1,200	$12,000
	Loss total	Loss total	Loss 5 p.c.

The Royal had $1,000 on organ, total loss.

FIRE ON NOTRE DAME STREET, MONTREAL.

On the 18th inst., a fire broke out in the building formerly owned by the Moss Estate, 1794-1796 Notre Dame Street. Those who suffered from the fire were Swift, Copeland & Co., Woodhouse, Rozand & Co., Messrs. King, clothiers; Messrs. Finley, Smith & Co. The following is a list of the insurance:

	Finley, Smith & Co.	Moss Building.	Copeland, Swift & Co.	King's Clothing Store.
Alliance..........	$15,000	....	....	....
Atlas............	10,000	....	....	....
Caledonian	....	....	....	6,000
Commercial Union.	....	....	....	6,000
Equity...........	....	....	....	2,500
Equitable.........	....	....	....	2,000
Guardian..........	10,000	6,000	....	....
Hartford	5,000	6,000	....	2,000
Law, Un. & Crown.	10,000	....	....	....
Liv. & London & Globe	20,000	....	....	2,000
London Assurance.	....	....	5,000	....
London Mutual...	....	....	....	3,000
Manchester.......	5,000	....	....	....
National of Ireland	....	....	5,000	....
N. B. & Mercantile.	10,000	6,000	....	....
North America...	....	....	13,000	....
Northern.........	15,000	6,000	....	3,000
Norwich Union...	7,000	....	5,000	....
Ottawa	....	....	....	2,500
Phenix of Brooklyn	....	....	5,000	....
Phœnix of Hartford............	5,000	....	....	....
Phœnix of London.	15,000	6,000	....	....
Quebec...........	....	....	....	2,000
Queen............	17,500	....	....	....
Royal............	30,000	....	5,000	....
Richmond D. & Yamaska	....	....	....	1,500
S. Union & Nat'l..	....	....	5,000	....
Sun..............	....	....	5,000	....
Union............	10,000	....	....	....
Western..........	10,000	....	....	....
	$190,500	30,000	48,000	32,500
	Slight smoke damage.	Loss 75 p.c.	Loss total.	Loss 10 p.c.

The North British & Mercantile have $4,000 on the stock of Woodhouse, Rozanwood & Co.'s total the stock of Woodhouse, Rozand & Co.'s total loss.

NATIONAL BANKS, AN ILL-JUDGED MOVEMENT.

A Committee of Congress has reported favourably on a Bill to amend the National Bank Act, in order to allow National banks to lend on real estate. This is a very ill-advised measure. Were the proposers of this Bill to enquire into the record of this class of business when carried on by banks, they would withdraw their approval from the measure. Long and varied experiences have shown the extreme inexpediency of a bank having its resources locked up in real estate loans. Such loans are forbidden by the Bank Act of Canada, with the unanimous approval of every banker. Were a list