

losses." It is realizing upon its assets and paying the proceeds *pro rata*, as received.

The company doing the largest farm business is the Agricultural Mutual Association of London. The assessment receipts of this Company amounted to \$26,341.45; its cash receipts to \$45,784.80, while the amount at risk is nearly *forty millions of dollars*; an amount that would require a re-insurance fund of considerably over \$100,000.

We notice that the statement does not furnish any information as to the amount available for a re-insurance fund: which, in the case of companies doing a cash business, is necessary in the interest of insurers. We understand that the Ontario Government contemplates altering the form of blank to be filled up by the companies in such a way as to enable the re-insurance fund to be shown. We find the following companies, in addition to the Agricultural, doing a larger cash than premium note business, namely, Canada Farmer's, Hamilton and Hastings, at Belleville. This is in contravention of an Act, passed some years ago, limiting the cash business, so as not to exceed the amount received from assessment on premium notes or "undertakings."

It appears to us that some companies have an unnecessarily large amount of assessments past due, which to our mind show a lack of good management. It would be well if, in this respect, they would follow the good example of the Gore District. The system of daily assessment, adopted by this company, obviates the difficulty named, and provides a regular daily income from assessments, similar to that of Proprietary Companies. Its losses were \$51,282.92; the income \$55,423.00. The report does not show whether this is the gross or the net income.

The Mutual Companies doing a general business throughout the Province, in common with stock companies, sustained more than an average share of losses during 1876. Those of the Waterloo County Mutual foot up to \$106,311; while the income from cash premiums and assessments amounted to \$116,529.

The claims for losses resisted by companies, during the past year, have been very numerous, being: the Niagara, \$16,000; the Gore District, \$7,900; the Waterloo, \$6,900; the Canadian, \$81,700; Canada Farmer's, \$6,692.70; Merchants and Manufacturer's, Hamilton, \$4,000.

The total receipts of the companies who have made returns amount to \$1,631,705, which includes both the cash and the note premiums. The losses were \$476,003.

We may have something further to say regarding Mutuals at a future time. Mean-

while, notwithstanding the ill-success and discontinuance of a few Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, we see no reason why institutions of this kind, if well conducted and confined to their legitimate sphere, should not do a satisfactory business. We fear that in their anxiety to do a large amount, they have been too often tempted to accept questionable risks at too low rates. Experience will have taught them to be more careful in selecting their risks in future, and to see that they obtain remunerative rates *on business done on the cash system* rather than attempt to do a larger business than they can well control.

SUN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual meeting of this company was held on Thursday last, in Montreal. The report submitted showed the year's business to have been a satisfactory one; the receipts for life premiums amounted to the handsome sum of \$95,737; and the death claims paid were, according to the statement, but \$9,500. The report, however, mentions \$14,000 paid during the year; *i.e.*, \$8,000 on deaths occurring late in 1875, and \$6,000 on deaths occurring in 1876. This was a very small amount and may to some extent indicate the careful selection of its risks. The new business of the year produced a premium revenue of \$31,268, from policies upon 573 lives, amounting to \$952,594; and the expenses absorbed 32 per cent. The amount in the hands of Agents appears somewhat large and no doubt the management will see that this item is reduced at the end of the present year. The policies have been valued by the Hon. Elizur Wright, and the reserve estimated on a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. basis is \$55,209. The company has for two years been doing Accident business, and although that department resulted in a loss in 1875, the directors speak hopefully of the prospects. \$3,780, or about $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the whole premium receipts were from accident business, and we infer that the remainder of \$1148 is from combined life and accident business last year. The premiums taken thus far since organizing this department, have been \$8920; the claims paid, \$1617; claims in suit, \$500; claims of the Commercial Travellers' Association, in abeyance, \$1000; reserve to cover outstanding risks \$2161, making \$9778, to which are to be added the expenses of this branch. This result will not show a profit, so that no "independent fund" can yet be created from this branch, as the directors hope. We trust that the management is careful to separate the accident from the life funds, and to keep the latter, as was stated in the report a year ago, "subservient to the more

important business of Life Insurance." We are glad, while making these remarks, to notice the substantial life business done by the company, which speaks for itself, and does not require any extravagant language to depict its progress. The first distribution of profits is made this year to the policy-holders.

MOORE vs. CONNECTICUT LIFE INSURANCE CO.—In this case, which was tried here a few days ago, the amount sued for, and for which a verdict was obtained, was \$3,642, but the whole amount involved is \$25,000. The claim was resisted on the ground alleged that the late Mr. C. Moore, when his life was insured, concealed important facts affecting the value of his life: one being an injury which he was alleged to have received in the head some years ago, and the other that he was a dyspeptic subject. The medical evidence pointed to traces of an old injury, but that it had had the effect of shortening life does not seem to have been made out. That deceased had occasionally had indigestion was admitted by the family physician. This is a ground of complaint, considering how frequent attacks of indigestion are, we do not think it was wise to make. Of course the concealment of a serious injury, which the Company seems to have believed deceased had received, would have been a different matter, if it could really have been proved to have been received. A new injury on the head, very near the old one, and received after the insurance was effected, had produced an accumulation of matter under the bone, and may have been connected with the paralysis which ensued. The case, it is said, will go before a full court, for their opinion of the law.

—In commenting last week upon the business of the British America Assurance Company we inadvertently stated the total losses, home and foreign, at 87 per cent. of the total receipts. It should have read Canadian losses 87 per cent. of receipts from Canadian business. The Canadian expenses of the Company for 1876 were \$73,054 and in the United States \$102,856. The business of the year yielded a profit.

—The Life Insurance Companies Bill as amended in Committee, has passed the Senate after a considerable opposition, and will become law. These amendments have been of a minor character, and with the main provisions of the measure we have already acquainted our readers.

—The Newfoundland Legislature has passed a new tariff, which places a duty of twenty per cent upon ready made clothing, and manufactures of wool, and thirteen per cent on articles generally not subject to a specific duty. A bounty of five per cent is allowed on the original cost of hemp, flax, cotton and wool, imported and made into merchandise.