

those policies which did bear premiums were at the lowest non-participating rates, which left very little margin for future profit to the company,—when these things are considered, and that the capital of the Federal was already impaired, the act appears, on the face of it, utterly indefensible.

The premium income for the year has been increased to \$14,712 (or \$38,596, including the amount received from the Toronto Tontine Co). This is \$7,642 more than the previous year. Unfortunately, however, the expenses have also increased to \$24,326, which exceeds the total premium income by 65 per cent, leaving out the reinsurance item, on which no commission probably was paid. This ratio is simply enormous. It would have paid the unfortunate stockholders better to have stopped their agency system entirely and issued policies to themselves or their friends, with the first annual premium paid by the Company. By this means they would have put in force about three times as many policies as were gained by it during the year, and not have increased the expense.

It is evident that a company whose expenses are so enormous cannot hope to do a prosperous business. The fact that its income, new assurances and amount at risk have increased is of little importance. Unless a change is made, and made soon, the Company is doomed. The result of last year's business is seen in its greatly increased impairment of capital. At the beginning of the year less than \$7,000 had been lost, but the amount has now been increased to over \$19,000. There has thus been a net loss of over \$12,000 on the year's transactions. Although no deaths have yet occurred, nearly thirty per cent. of the paid up capital has already gone.

The policyholders are of course perfectly safe in any case, as they have the subscribed capital, \$637,000, to fall back on as additional security. There is, however, more than that to be considered. If the Company has not a reasonable prospect of becoming successful, it is certainly in the interest of all concerned that it should stop, before any more of the shareholders money has been lost. If, on the other hand, it is thought better to push the Company on, in the hope of eventually achieving success, we would respectfully point out that success cannot be attained by their present course. A continuance in it is, in fact, certain to prevent the Company from ever attaining a satisfactory position among its competitors. We say this with great regret, for we would very much prefer to have been able to speak complementarily of the Company. We feel, however, that we would not be doing our duty to our readers if we passed the matter over. We desire to see all our Canadian companies, especially the life ones, placed on such a solid foundation that they will be entitled to the fullest confidence of the public.

Institute of Actuaries of Great Britain has been granted a royal charter of incorporation, dated July 29, 1884. The Charter states that the Institute was formed in 1848 with the objects of improving the status and efficiency of those engaged in actuarial data and methods of applying them to practical life. Mr. T. B. Sprague, the first president of the institute, is at present in Canada. He came over with the British Association.

STATISTICS OF SUICIDES.

From one of our French Exchanges we take the following figures connected with the subject of suicides, in Europe, which seems to be largely on the increase over former years, the total reported for the year 1883 upon that continent being 22,000. At the commencement of the present century the relative rank of the several countries named as to the number of suicides to the number of inhabitants respectively was as follows :

Prussia,	1 out of	14,404	inhabitants.
England,	1 "	16,131	"
France,	1 "	20,740	"
Austria,	1 "	25,400	"
Spain,	1 "	108,875	"
Russia,	3 "	100,000	"

The increase in the number of voluntary deaths is especially marked in Germany and among the Protestant portion of Switzerland. The official list of the bureau of statistics furnishes the following figures: Switzerland, Protestants, 1 out of 3,896. Saxony, 1 out of 4,166. Denmark, 1 out of 5,549. Protestant portion of Prussia 1 out of 5,264, while the Catholic portion of the same Kingdom shows but 1 out of 14,285. In Bavaria, the Catholic portion gives 1 out of about 20,000 inhabitants, while the Protestant shows 1 out of 6,600. France doubles these numbers, and the ratio of suicides has increased from 1 out of 20,740 to 1 out of 10,500. Austria follows in about the same ratio, while Spain and Portugal maintain the figures of the early part of the century.

Tracing a comparative table of suicides in proportion to the inhabitants of the several European States, they can be classed in the following order: 1st. Protestant Switzerland; 2nd. The Kingdom of Saxony; 3rd. Denmark; 4th. Sweden; 5th. Prussia; 6th. France; 7th. Duchy of Baden; 8th. England; 9th. Bavaria; 10th. Austria; 11th. Belgium; 12th. Hungary; 13th. Italy; 14th. Spain; 15th. Portugal.

Saxony, the principal seat of socialism, has the sorrowful privilege of leaving behind it all of the other European States. From 1872 to 1878 the number of suicides has risen from 266 to 408 for each million of inhabitants. Germany seems to gravitate around this diminutive Kingdom, and to be drawn into this movement in the direct ratio of distance; the nearer it approaches Saxony, the more do voluntary deaths increase. For each million of inhabitants the Danubian Provinces number but 30 suicides; Austria 130; Brandenburg over 200; the Province of Saxony 235; the Rhemish Provinces reach 65; Westphalia 70; Hanover upwards of 140; Franconia, on the confines of Saxony, 150 to 160; Silesia 225; in centre of Saxony, properly so designated, the number reaches 408. Nor does Prussia lag in following this rapid increase: from 1874 to 1878 the self-murders have increased from 137 to 181 for each million of inhabitants. France follows next; from 1874 to 1878 the number of suicides has grown from 154 to 171 per million, while England shows not to exceed a ratio of 71.

The continental cities give the following results, viz.: Leipzig 450 victims per 1,000,000 inhabitants; Dresden