

## LONDON INSURANCE TOTALS.

The total amounts of insurance effected within the jurisdiction of the London, Eng., County Council are given in the English insurance journals. We quote those covered by companies operating in Canada from *The Review* :—

COMPANY.	Sum insured.	COMPANY.	Sum insured.
	\$		\$
Sun .....	417,948,000	Atlas .....	88,645,000
Phoenix .....	409,563,000	Norwich Union...	87,902,000
Royal .....	265,510,000	Northern .....	76,816,000
N. British & Mer..	199,418,000	London & Lanc...	66,408,000
L. & L. & Globe..	198,976,000	Palatine .....	46,957,000
Alliance .....	150,119,000	Lancashire .....	36,992,000
Commercial Union.	147,088,000	Scott. Un. & Nat'l.	35,795,000
Union .....	146,826,000	Manchester .....	39,545,000
Imperial .....	126,844,000	Fire Ins. Assoc...	30,025,000
London Assurance.	119,448,000	Caledonian .....	22,546,000
Guardian .....	119,212,000	Union of Ireland..	5,000,000

The total amount of risks covered by the fire insurance companies within that area is \$4,107,918,120! This gives a marvellous picture of the prodigious wealth of England's metropolis, which is indeed the Capital of the world. This return is made the basis of an assessment on the companies towards the cost of the London Fire Brigade, the Council evidently being under the impression that it is easier to collect taxes from insurance companies than from the ratepayers at large. This policy turns the companies into tax collectors, as whatever sums they are assessed for, they, in their turn, assess upon policyholders, to recoup themselves. The system of putting fire insurance companies to a special charge for a fire brigade is a relic of by-gone days, the days of ignorance in regard to the invaluable services of insurance to the whole community.

The Ohio road commissioner's report, after showing that 400 millions would be needed to make good roads in that State, recommends the general extension of rural electric roads. Farm wagons seem likely to disappear from highways, as produce will be carried to markets by freight trolley cars.

An eminent actuary is said to have made a calculation as to what one dollar invested at 6 per cent. at the birth of Christ would have amounted to this year, the result being a sum too large for comprehension. Such a calculation is as valuable as the fact that a cow's tail would reach to the moon—if long enough. That any actuary, eminent or not, would spend his time over such fantastic work we doubt; men of that class are too level-headed to waste time over problems of that class.

Pauper children in New York are maintained in quasi public institutions in that city at a cost of over a million and a half dollars annually. This lamentable destitution has been urged as an argument for the extension of life insurance amongst the lower orders. The trouble at work is, we fear, beyond remedy by insurance. Cities like New York attract the riff-raff of the country, who are irreclaimable, and their nomadic habits and looseness of life place them wholly outside the range of benefit societies or of life assurance.

Ireland in 1893 is reported to have had the most peaceful and prosperous year of the century. Since 1826 there has been no better agricultural season nor less distress.

## Correspondence.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for views expressed by Correspondents

## TORONTO LETTER.

DEAR EDITOR,

Although, by virtue of my name, I am but an "airy sprite," a spirit, I will try to do my "spiriting gently." Will try to answer "Old Timer from Oskosh" (which I suppose is the Indian name for Hamilton) to his satisfaction. At the start I would beg O. T. to remember that as "Ariel," I stand on a different plane to what he does, both as regards altitude and profundity, being a spirit and having knowledge of all things. I am not quite sure that O. T., who is evidently sincere and straightforward, reads between the lines, or ever gets more than one meaning out of "Ariel's" letters. I think he takes me too seriously; also, he seems to take to C. F. U. A. too seriously. He hopes it is "not imbued with the ideas of 'Ariel'." Well, I do not think it is. It may surprise O. T. to tell him that "my ideas" are quite in line with the prayer of the Hamilton Board Memorial, and, further, the reasonable propositions therein set forth should not only be applied to Hamilton but to the whole Canadian field. Briefly, these propositions were as follows:

1. One agent for each company only, in each city, town or hamlet.

2. No commissions to loan, life, or other corporations and banks, or to their representatives.

3. Generally, let the sole representative of each company control the whole premium income of such company in his agency, and enjoy the commission thereon. Now, no doubt, to a layman, the admitting and putting in practice of the above, making them rules, would be quite proper for an institution whose avowed objects are "the establishment and maintenance of fire insurance rates, and the promotion of the interests of fire insurance business in Canada." But somehow, friend O. T., the C. F. U. A. does not see it as we do—does not want to see it perhaps—so your "Memorial" was dismissed with "not within the jurisdiction of the Association!" Of course, that phrase is a fiction, and you understood it as such, otherwise, do you openly divide your commission with any of the individuals who are members of the corporations referred to, to induce them to insure their properties with you, and see how quickly you will be hauled up for paying commission to the "insured" You will find out then that the "jurisdiction" is all right, whether the fault be committed in Hamilton or Hawkesbury. But O. T. must remember the C. F. U. A. is not all perfection; it is not "tailor-made." There is a deal of misfit here and there, some bagginess at the knees, and a button or two off, at important spots; but on the whole, for a home-made article and one that has seen a deal of weather, it wears well, and I suppose to the satisfaction of its promoters and proprietors. Now, I hope O. T. will acquit me of his charge of "laughing down" the "Hamilton Memorial." Its object was all right, and the idea of it originated in a becoming innocence of heart, and especially an abounding faith in the C. F. U. A., but all the "same, a prior reference to one of the "three wise men" on the CHRONICLE staff would have caused the Hamilton Board to reconsider its submission to the Association. The result could have been foretold.

I see a suggestion in a daily paper here for a syndicate of capitalists to take steps to acquire the "Confederation Life building" on Yonge street, and to establish therein a first-class hotel. In some respects the scheme is a good one. Such an hotel is wanted; the site is central and convenient, and the buildings prominent and imposing as well as extensive. Likely Manager MacDonald would listen to terms, and if he sold out could, with