

Plenty, the Scotch Lion, the Plough, Architectural emblems of strength and proportion, the Thistle, and the Caduceus, and the motto, *nemo me impune lacessit*, which, we venture to say, is intended to read, "No one wrongs me with impunity."

The company, like others of its class, for many years maintained its own fire engine and brigade, who kept special guard over buildings on which the metal badge was fixed, showing a thistle and the word Caledonian.

In 1808 the company decided to pay no dividend until \$75,000 of profits had been accumulated. In 1813 the Caledonian opened agencies in England and in 1834 in Dublin. In July, 1835, it entered the field of life assurance, which so progressed that in 1904 the policies in force numbered 18,304, assuring £8,081,607, and the claims paid exceeded £3,267,990. This department of the business owes its development to the sagacious and enterprising management of the late Mr. Denchar.

In 1877 the Caledonian took over the Scottish Fire Insurance Company, which was doing a considerable amount of foreign fire insurance, which it was decided to continue. In 1879 agents were appointed in Calcutta, Japan, China, South Africa, which agencies have been discontinued.

In 1883 business was commenced in Canada, by the agency of Messrs. Taylor. They were succeeded by Mr. Lansing Lewis, who was appointed manager for Canada at Montreal, a position he still holds, to the advantage of the company and in which he has won the highest respect.

The financial condition of the Caledonian in the United States is well illustrated by the way it has stood the test of recent conflagrations. For the fire at Jacksonville, 1901, the net amount paid was \$107,873, Paterson, 1902, \$31,532, at Baltimore, \$248,292; all which claims were paid without remittances from head office.

Under Mr. Denchar's management the capital stock had increased from £300,000 to £537,000, and took over the Scottish Fire, Scottish Metropolitan Fire, and Edinburgh Fire Insurance Offices. He was president of the Insurance Society of Edinburgh and of the Federation of Insurance Institutes, also honorary president of the Actuarial Society. A man of many sides, of wide attainments, of great gifts was the late Mr. Denchar, who just missed seeing the centenary of the company he had served for 30 years.

On his death, Mr. Robert Chapman, who had been in the company's service since 1875, was appointed manager. He had filled the offices of inspector, secretary and agency manager, so is thoroughly familiar with his business and his appointment is regarded most hopefully.

In 1904 the net premiums of the fire department were \$2,006,195, the income from interest \$81,225,

making the total income \$2,177,420. The net losses were \$1,853,935, and \$99,580 was added to reserve for unexpired risks, 44 per cent. on increase in premiums, these two sums making together \$1,953,515, being deducted from the income of \$2,177,420, left \$223,905 to be carried to profit and loss account. In his address at the annual meeting, the chairman pointed out that \$225,000 had been set aside from the profits of 1903 towards the Baltimore and Toronto losses. He spoke of the company as 'a National Institution,' and appealed for help in extending the operations of "the Oldest Scottish Insurance Office."

#### THE FINANCES AND RESOURCES OF JAPAN.

THE MARVEL OF MODERN TIMES IN DEVELOPMENT; FIGHTING RESOURCES WHOLLY MISUNDERSTOOD; GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, SOCIAL ORDER, RAILWAYS, UP TO A HIGH STANDARD; BANKS MODELLED ON CANADIAN SYSTEM; NATIONAL DEBT OUTLOOK AFTER THE WAR.

Having given a brief sketch of the finances and resources of Russia on our last issue, more especially in relation to the prospect of her having to pay a war indemnity to Japan, a few comments on the victor will be in order.

It however needs no explanation to show how different is the position of the recipient to the payer of an indemnity. The former cannot be so impoverished, or so rich, as to make such a payment a matter of indifference, while the payer may be so poor as to be embarrassed by the payment, and cannot be so rich as not to suffer by an indemnity, if not in purse yet in pride and prestige.

The war has dispelled illusions as regards both the contestants. Russia was never imagined to be in danger of a crushing defeat both on sea and land by Japan, nor was Japan, even by its most sanguine friends, supposed to be capable of bringing Russia into humiliation. When Kuropatkin boasted that he would have articles of peace signed in Tokio, most persons thought it not unlikely to occur.

This Empire is the marvel of modern times. It was regarded as semi-barbarous even in the early days of this generation, yet, to-day Japan is a world-power, its system of government, nationally and locally, is ahead of most European nations; its public schools are more numerous in proportion to population, and better equipped than the average of those in Europe; its judicial system is well-organized; its poor-law is based on rational and humane principles; its banking system is akin to that of Canada; which is very high praise; its manufactures of textiles, metallic goods, etc., display exceptional ingenuity and taste; and, as to the naval and military capacity of the Japanese, their achievements have astonished the whole world.