

and if this is done as time goes on all little roughnesses will be smoothed over till at length, like Darby and Joan, frowns will no longer be mixed with smiles, and they will assert stoutly that there was never a difference of any moment between them.

We sincerely trust this may be the case with the Canadian FireUnderwriters' Association, for, however burning a question that of brokerage may seem to agents in this city, to have broken up a tariff the good results of which are only just becoming apparent would have been a piece of folly to stupendous that the fable of the dog giving up the substance for the shadow would be mild in comparison.

CLASS INSURANCE.

We notice that it is proposed to start a Millers' and Manufacturers' Insurance Company in Ontario, with a capital of \$250,000. From the title and the names connected with the venture we conclude that this is a company to be launched in the interests—principally, at any rate—of the flour millers, who, we believe, are virtuously indignant at the Tariff Fire Insurance Companies having raised the rates upon flour and grist mills, the owners of such mills honestly believing that the hazard of their risks is very much less than underwriters endeavor to make out; that they are being unjustly handicapped; and that, in point of fact, there is a bonanza in Flour Mill Insurance if only conducted upon sound principles, which latter are infinitely better understood by the millers themselves than by any body of fire insurance men.

Now, unless we are very much mistaken, we have heard a story similar to this before, and it appears to us to be only an old fable set to new words. A fire insurance company whose main object is to benefit its policy-holders is like unto a dry goods store started in the interests of the purchasers, the foundations of both structures are unsound from a business point of view and must, sooner or later, give way.

It is not many years ago since a Millers' Insurance Company was floated in Great Britain, avowedly to take flouring mills at lower rates than those charged by the Tariff offices, the leading millers asserting that the price set upon their risks was out of all proportion to the hazard, and that the Insurance companies were coining money out of flour mills, and making the latter pay for other bad business.

"One touch of nature makes the whole world akin" and insurers seem to be wonderfully alike on both sides of the Atlantic, always thinking that they know better than underwriters, and invariably imagining that they are unfairly treated. The same measures are taken to rectify what they believe to be a crying injustice, and we need hardly say that it does not require much of the gift of prophecy to foretell that the results in both Continents will closely resemble each other.

The above company of Great Britain, after struggling for two or three years, failed most lamentably and completely, and the stockholders became both sadder and wiser men.

For any company making a specialty of a certain class of risks it is not only necessary that said class should be profitable, but that the income should be large enough to make a business of itself, and this is one of the chief stumbling blocks in the way of class insurance, and where the com-

panies doing a general business have an undoubted advantage.

We are not so innocent as to suppose our note of warning will be heeded, for then would human nature be suddenly bereft of one of its leading characteristics—that of hearing advice but never heeding it, and our friend Mrs. Micawber's forcible saying—though a trifle mixed as to languages, "Experientia does it" would pass into the realms of oblivion. This experience it would seem cannot be acquired second hand, and therefore we presume the millers of Canada are going to learn for themselves what they might have been taught by their brethren in England.

FIRE LOSS ADJUSTMENT.

To the Editor of INSURANCE SOCIETY.

I have read your article in reply to questions in regard to "Fire Loss Adjustment" page 124, May issue. In your opinion would the position of Company "B" be changed if they had *no* notice of existing insurance on same building.

Truly yours,
"P."

"OTHER INSURANCE."

(Query.)

Answering P.'s question categorically we say that, under the circumstances of the case, as given in the May issue of INSURANCE SOCIETY, it would make no difference whatever whether either of the Companies had notice of the insurance carried by the other, or not. The interests at risk were as entirely separate and distinct as if the two insurances had been on different pieces of property instead of upon the same. The "*trust interest*" represented the owner and the property; the "*life estate*" represented only a claim not upon the owner, but upon the barn itself during the life of the widow. And in the absence of any qualifying clause, similar to that in use in England, as quoted in our article on page 124 the two interests have no connection with each other, and the act of obtaining insurance by the one cannot effect the rights of the other. One might obtain insurance on his interest without the knowledge of the other, for there is no such privity between the parties in this case as to compel the one to give notice of insurance to the other; the limitation clause as to the other insurance, usually found in the policy, applies only to the party whose interest is insured, and to other insurances upon this same interest only. And where the rule of contribution is not operative between the Companies, notice of other insurance is not called for by policies.

THE AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF WATERTOWN, N.Y.

The Agricultural or Farmers' Insurance Company, now ranks amongst the most prosperous fire offices of North America. Its pyramid of assets shows steady and solid growth, its thirty-second step now displays accumulated assets amounting to \$1,722,589 for the protection of policy-holders. It has a capital of half a million dollars, its surplus being \$634,551 after providing an ample re-insurance reserve.

The amount of premiums contributed by the Canadian Branch in the year 1884, was \$74,840, while the net losses incurred were \$34,866, or 46.5 per cent. of premium income. These figures are complimentary to the representatives of the company in the Dominion, namely, Mr. J. Flynn, and Messrs. Dewey and Buckman of Brockville.

The Canadian head office has been changed from Cobourg to Toronto. Mr. J. Flynn, chief agent, will now be found in new, commodious offices, in the Arcade building, Yonge st., Toronto. We think the change a desirable one, and wish Mr. Flynn and his company every success in their new quarters.