

also to some of their customers here who import wool, etc., etc. Credits are also issued by Canadian banks to importers of tea which are available in Japan or China, to importers of groceries for use in the Mediterranean, and importers of dry goods, for use on the Continent of Europe. The Banks of Canada have interests with all the countries in the world where transactions arise relating to the imports and exports of the Dominion.

(U.S. Financial Notes.)
 During the year 1897 there were listed on the New York Stock Exchange \$87,720,000 of new issues of bonds, \$15,713,500 of old issues newly listed and \$53,981,900 of new issues replacing old securities making a total of \$357,415,902 with the exception of 1896, when the total was \$582,286,700; this is the largest amount since 1890. The number of shares sold on the Exchange were 77,324,172 having a par value of \$7,426,138,050 and an actual value of \$4,973,553,064, average price 67.0 per cent. This is a large increase over 1896, when the sales amounted to 54,654,096 shares, par value \$5,110,643,883 and actual value \$3,329,969,540, average price 65.2.

The returns from the municipalities now comprising Greater New York are now in. The assessed valuation is placed at \$2,464,763,192, and the gross funded debt \$313,107,846, or deducting invested sinking fund, \$227,453,529. The invested sinking funds amount to \$85,654,317 and there is cash on deposit \$515,893. The total municipal bond issues in the United States reported during 1897 amount to \$137,954,004 in 1896; they were \$106,496,060, being an increase of about 31 1-2 millions.

Below we quote the prices obtained in some of the more recent sales of municipal securities.

Amount.		Municipality.	Mature.	Price.
750,000	3 1/2	Boston	1928	105.889
500,000	3 1/2	"	1938	
450,000	3 1/2	"	1925	
300,000	3 1/2	"	1928	
150,000	3 1/2	"	1903	
101,700	3 1/2	"	1927	
100,000	3 1/2	"	1918	
570,000	3 1/2	Brooklyn	1917	105.22
55,000	3 1/2	Buffalo	1898-1917	102.81
50,000	3 1/2	Cincinnati	1907-1917	100.
100,000	3 1/2	Hartford	1938	108.239
200,000	3 1/2		1938	
75,000	3 1/2		1923	
150,000	3 1/2		1926	
1,500,000	3 1/2	New York City.	1,916 107.527, 108.47	
2,673,240	3 1/2	"	1,916 105.513	
919,830	3 1/2	"	1,918 106.01	
105,883	3 1/2	"	1,918 105.889	

WHAT CONSTITUTES AN INSURABLE INTEREST ON LIVES.

The question as to what constitutes an insurable interest on lives was raised at the last meeting of the Actuarial Society of America, the proceedings of which are published. The remarks of Mr. T. B. Macaulay were to the following effect. He divided the question into two parts, the first being: "What in-

terest must a person have in the life of another to justify his taking out a policy on that other life?" A policy may be taken out by any relative who is in any way financially dependent upon the life assured, or by any creditor or other person who would lose financially by the termination of that life. The second question is: "If a person voluntarily takes out a policy on his own life, paying the premiums thereon himself, is there any restriction or limitation on his power to nominate as the beneficiary under that policy any person or institution he may select for that purpose? Or, to put the question differently, is there any statute or reason of public policy to prevent a man from making a financial provision for any person in whom he may be interested, by making that person the beneficiary under a policy on his own life? As I have said, in my judgment this is an entirely different problem from that of assurable interest. The question of assurable interest deals only with the power of a beneficiary or third party to take out a policy on the life of the person to be assured. This second division of the subject deals with the powers of the life assured himself to nominate a beneficiary." Mr. Macaulay illustrated this by his company agreeing to issue a policy on the life of a person who wished it made payable to Young Men's Christian Association, he paying the premiums, and he remarked: "I fail to see that the Gambling Act or question of assurable interest has any bearing on such a policy." That Act is interpreted in England much more strictly than in Canada, the line being drawn at all policies except those in favour of heirs; legal representatives; the wife and children under the Wives' and Childrens' Policies' Act; or persons who have a direct financial interest, such as creditors; even a policy payable to a man's aged father, or his widowed mother, or his sister being prohibited. Such an interpretation is absurdly unjust, as there are numberless cases in which these relatives are wholly dependent upon a son, or brother, for their daily bread. "In Canada policies in favour of parents, sisters and younger brothers are freely issued." Another question is thus stated and answered by Mr. Macaulay: "To whom and to what extent may a policy which has once been legally put in force be afterwards assigned? The answer to this question really hinges upon the prior question whether or not a life assurance policy is a contract of indemnity. If it is once admitted that a life policy is not a mere contract of indemnity, and that in this respect it differs from a contract of fire insurance or marine insurance, and that the owner of the policy has an absolute title to it and a valid right to receive the whole of the assurance money, then there is no reason why he should not be allowed to transfer his ownership to another person. A policy of life assurance is in practically the same position as a debenture payable some years hence, and it should, I think, be treated in exactly the same way, so long as nothing criminal is done which could endanger the life of the person assured.