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## STOBART, SONS & CO.

POATRGE AVENUE, WINNIPEG.

pale and coarse pelted kinds sold heavily.

Raccoon, 5 per cent. lower than in January, on account of lower prices for poor blue pelts and thirds.

Beaver, same as in January.

Otter sold 15 per cent. higher than in March last year.

Wolf, about the same as January last.

Wolverin, 20 per cent. lower than in March last year.

Black bear, 20 per cent. lower than a year ago. The rough fine pelted sold about the same, but the low pelted heavy sorts declined.

Brown and grizzly bear sold 20 per cent. lower than in March, 1887.

### Insurance Briefs.

We see it stated that in less than fifty years thirty-four life insurance companies have failed and seventy-eight reinsured.

A new fire engine has been purchased by Vancouver, B. C. It is a duplicate of the present engine, costing in the neighborhood of \$4,000. An new fire hall will be built soon.

The fire tax of the United States, including fire losses, the cost of conducting insurance companies, and the sustaining of fire departments, is not less than \$180,000,000, and is probably \$200,000,000 per annum.

A fire was discovered in Calgary, Alberta, shortly after midnight in a building occupied by Wellington & McKenzie, general dealers. The fire started in the room of Mr. Wellington who was absent at the time. The fire was incendiary in its origin. It was got under control without serious damage.

If Dr. David Hostetter, the bitters man of Pittsburgh, Pa., should step down and out, the life insurance companies would drop \$100,000. He was about to raise the amount to \$1,000,000, but prolonged illness prevented. No man should be permitted to carry such a line of insurance. No man's money value of life is worth any such sum. Such large sums on a single life is a wrong upon those who insure in smaller sums.—*Exchange*.

The Guardian claims that the assessment life insurance companies are paying more in losses to the beneficiaries of deceased members than

are the old line companies. The growth of assessment life insurance during the past few years is simply wonderful. It gets severely criticised by insurance journals generally. We sometimes think the insurance journals give assessment life insurance a vast amount of free advertising, and that this contributes largely to its growth.—*Exchange*.

The old plan life insurance companies are waking up to the fact that they cannot much longer maintain their unnecessarily rigid rules, and they are beginning to make concessions. The latest we note is that of one of the most prominent life companies announcing the issue of a non-forfeiting free tontine policy, which will include the advantages of tontine accumulation, guaranteed options at the end of tontine periods, and perfect freedom, after two years, as to residence, travel and occupation (except service in war). In case of death by reason of engaging in the military or naval service in time of war, the reserve value of the policy will be paid. Now what is wanted is a reduction in the expenses of management, and a reduction in the rate of premium, so as to bring the blessings which life insurance is capable of bestowing within the reach of those most needing them.

Few people have any idea of the magnitude of the life insurance business. From the recent reports of the superintendent of insurance for the State of New York, we learn that the eleven life insurance companies of that State have received in premiums since their organization \$341,926,043, and that they have paid to policy holders \$577,230,493. There are thirty life companies reporting to the New York Insurance Department. These thirty companies have received since their organization in premiums \$1,521,536,694, and have paid to policy holders \$1,087,693,940. Now it is fair to presume taking the general statements of the companies as to their interest earnings, that \$1,500,000,000, at least should be added to the \$1,526,536,694, making the premiums and interest over \$3,000,000,000. Out of this there has been paid to policy holders a small fraction over \$1,000,000,000, leaving the nice plum of \$2,000,000,000, or two dollars for one, for management expenses and in our city officers' parlance, "soap and things."—*Cincinnati Price Current*.

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