

evidence of the town's progressiveness. St. Thomas and Ingersoll possess committees of the board of trade and the town council, whose duty it is to be on the lookout for securing any new industry for their respective towns. He considered it would be well for the Berlin board to move in the same direction.

On motion, Mr. S. J. Williams was re-elected president by a standing unanimous vote, and amid applause. Vice-president, Robert Smyth; treasurer, Edw. Smyth and secretary, H. J. Sims, were also reappointed. Some twenty members were nominated for the council. The balloting resulted in the election of the following: Aug. Lang, Geo. DeBus, Hugo Kranz, C. A. Ahrens, A. Pequegnat, J. U. Clemens, C. K. Hagedorn and Wm. Roos.

#### ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

P. B. K., Agnes, Que.—The headquarters of the concern is not in Toronto, but in New York. Have written you.

C. A. A., Sault Ste. Marie.—The Massachusetts Benefit Life Co. was put into the hands of receivers in 1898. The Canadian receiver was Mr. T. E. P. Sutton. We believe the assets have been distributed and the receivers discharged. Possibly you may hear of your policy by addressing Mr. Sutton, care of Manufacturers' Life Co., Toronto. There was a dividend paid, we do not remember how much.

#### GOLDEN, B.C., BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Golden Board of Trade was held on Thursday, 31st January, 1901. The president, Mr. J. S. Gibb, in the chair. Among the measures discussed by the board, and as a rule adopted, were an increased Government appropriation for Golden; the improvement of the Fort Steele road; the passing of an amendment to the statute whereby the whole province of British Columbia was created a fire district, actual undertaking by the Dominion Government of the construction having a tendency to preserve our valuable timber; the removal to Golden from Revelstoke (which was formerly the headquarters for this district) of several offices; the improvement of the mail service between Golden and Windermere. The chairman concluded by thanking the members of the board for standing shoulder to shoulder in the interests of the town.

Messrs. Aylmer, McNeish and Ullock responded. An unanimous vote of thanks was tendered to Messrs. Gibb and O'Brien for the valuable services they had rendered the body. The election of officers resulted as follows: J. S. Gibb, president; C. H. Parson, vice-president; Thos. O'Brien, secretary-treasurer. Messrs. H. G. Parson, J. G. Ullock, G. B. McDermot and C. A. Warren, council.

#### SHERBROOKE BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Sherbrooke Board of Trade took place on the 1st inst., but owing to the small attendance, the business of electing officers was postponed until the 5th, the result being as follows: President, Mr. G. G. Bryant; vice-president, Mr. J. M. Dufresne; council, Messrs. J. P. Royer, J. A. Wiggett, W. B. Neil, W. R. Webster, L. A. Bayley, A. Sangster, L. J. Codere, A. H. Foss, J. S. Mitchell and W. W. Morency.

#### BRANTFORD BOARD OF TRADE.

The address of the president of this body, on the occasion of its annual meeting on the 5th inst., gives some facts and figures to illustrate the continued progress of Brantford as an industrial centre. The number of factory employees in the city, now nearly 4,000, has increased over 1899 by ten per cent. Two important industries, a malleable iron works and a packing company, began operations last year, and two other concerns, removing from other places will shortly add to the activity of Brantford. City improvement; a retail merchants'

organization; railway matters, are among the subjects dealt with in Mr. Hamilton's address. It is pleasing to learn from the secretary's report that 115 names were added to the membership of the board in 1900. Mr. J. S. Hamilton received a hearty vote of thanks for his services, and was promptly re-elected to the presidency. Mr. Lloyd Harris was chosen vice-president, and Mr. George Hatley, secretary-treasurer. We have not yet received complete lists of the council and committees.

#### TEMPERANCE AND GENERAL LIFE.

The portion of the report of this company that we are accustomed to examine with most interest is that relating to the risks on teetotallers as compared with those who indulge in malt or spirituous liquors. The company has carried, during fifteen years an equivalent of 45,318 lives for one year in the Temperance Section, and 13,547 in the General Section. The death losses during the period were 254 in number. Of these 170 occurred in the Temperance Section and 84 in the General Section. The death losses for the entire period averaged 4.24 per annum per 1,000 of the average number of lives in the whole business, and being distributed were as follows: 3.75 per 1,000 lives in the Temperance Section and 6.2 per 1,000 lives in the General Section. While the death rate was low in both sections, there was thus a much lower death rate in the Temperance than in the General Section. The report says: "Our experience with regard to the two sections corresponds exactly with the comparative record and experience made by every company throughout the world that has classified its risks similarly."

The company wrote 1,405 policies for \$1,870,680 of new business in 1900, and its total risks now exceed ten millions of dollars. Its statement shows a growth of \$130,000 in assets, and a surplus which now amounts to \$103,000. Assets are of a good class, and the company's affairs continue to show signs of very careful administration. The increase in its business is steady and healthy.

#### IMPERIAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.

It is an advantage for any company to have as its president a cautious and scrupulous man, who weighs his words, and who it may be presumed considers his acts in respect of any concern with which he may be connected in an official capacity. Such a man is Sir Oliver Mowat, president of the Imperial Life Company. His address before the annual meeting last week puts some of the company's statements and figures in a different setting from that in which they appear in the official report. And his reminiscent comparisons are of interest. He shows the growth of the company's figures during several years, and deduces from them the progress and increasing strength which it has been the object of the management to compass.

The Imperial has done well in 1900. It shows increases in income, in assets, in business in force, and in net surplus—and what more could any company expect? Total income was \$356,133; total assets, \$1,102,092; assurance in force, \$9,226,350; net surplus, \$39,190—handsome figures. In his address, the managing director called attention to four features which in his opinion accounted for the company's success: 1st, its plans; 2nd, its liberal form of contract; 3rd, its financial position; 4th, its promptness in paying claims. With submission we would suggest a fifth, which Mr. Cox did not mention, namely, the energetic work of its agency staff and the vigilance of its management.

After dwelling upon the character of the company's assets, Mr. Ames, the vice-president, took high ground in declaring that the Imperial declines to assert its own eminence by disparaging rival life companies. This is a welcome announcement, truly, and such a stand is rare enough now-a-days. He did well to insist, as this journal has many times insisted, upon "life insurance being one of the most dignified and important of all businesses;" and remarked upon the improved relations which now exist between managers of life companies in Canada in comparison with those which used to exist. It is not dignified, it is not necessary, and it is, as Mr. Ames points out, a departure from the policy pursued by banks, railways, and