We understand that this company obtained, at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, authority to raise a guarantee capital not exceeding a half million dollars. If, say $100,000 of this were subscribed it would do much to maintain and improve the large connection the company now holds. Mercantile risks would more readily come to it, and it might enjoy prestige in quarters hitherto unknown. It is quite possible that none of this would ever be required to be paid up, inasmuch as fires would not be any more frequent relatively than now. But the added responsibility would improve the repute of the company in the minds of many.

ECONOMICAL FIRE COMPANY.

The experience of this company for last year was an increase of $4,000 in premium income, and losses of $75,226. Cash assets have grown from $105,276 at the close of 1898 to $117,928 at the close of 1899, and the total at risk is now $15,300,000. Of the business in force, $5,587,682 consists of mercantile risks, $2,153,165 of manufacturing risks, and $7,626,927 of isolated risks. The business of 1899 shows 6,850 policies written for $7,017,626. Fire losses absorbed 56 per cent. of the premium receipts, expenses of management 34 per cent, leaving a profit of 10 per cent. The Economical professes to take risks 20 per cent. lower than current tariff rates, and having a good cash reserve settles losses promptly. It aims, and we believe successfully, to deserve its title as an economical fire insurance company.

ANGLO-AMERICAN FIRE.

This company, which numbers among its directors many well-known Ontario business men, has been doing fire underwriting less than a year. Its report covers but three-quarters of 1899, but in that period it has taken $57,040 gross in premiums, a very respectable sum, representing risks of over $5,000,000. Losses were light, as was to be expected, and these with expenses absorbed $23,544, leaving, after reinsurance and cancellations are deducted, $21,596 at credit of profit and loss. Deducting estimated liability on current risks there is $7,809 to the good. The company does business in Ontario only, and has not joined the Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association, preferring it seems to be independent in the matter of rates and regulations. According to the address of the president it aims to do a carefully selected business, and may at a future day extend its operations to other parts of the Dominion.

EQUITY FIRE INSURANCE CO.

At the close of the second year of its existence this company is able to show cash and mortgage assets of $59,725, besides a sum in outstanding premiums and $450,000 of subscribed but uncalled capital. The liabilities, including reinsurance reserve, but excluding paid-up stock, are $26,714. It has increased its premium income from $20,367 in 1898 to $52,603 gross last year, and the amount of insurance in force is $4,368,504 net. Losses and expenses absorbed 76 per cent. of the net premium receipts, which is a satisfactory showing and has encouraged the directors to pay a dividend. They have prudently restricted this, however, for the present to a low rate, 3 per cent. per annum.

GRAND FORKS BUSINESS MEN ACTIVE.

The citizens of Grand Forks have again this year taken the initiative in agitating for railway competition into the Boundary country. The Kettle River Railway Bill, providing for such relief will come before the Dominion Parliament this session. The Canadian applicants purpose, in the event of their success, co-operating with an American Railway, which will extend from a point on the Columbia River in Washington State up the water grade of the Kettle River valley to Cascade, B.C., on the international boundary line. At a meeting of the Grand Forks Board of Trade, held on the 2nd inst., the following resolution, moved by W. B. Davey, seconded by Frank Sears, was unanimously adopted:

"That, Whereas the Boundary country is entitled to railway competition the same as any other portion of Canada, and whereas the people of the Boundary country are unanimous in favor of the Kettle River Railway, and whereas, owing to the formation of the country the relationship between the United States and Canada along the international line here is very close, and whereas, a large amount of American capital is invested here, and a great many Americans are residing here, and have and are becoming British subjects, and a railway to the south would largely help to bring in American capital and American people, and whereas, it has been declared by such eminent smelting men as Mr. Heinze, Mr. D. C. Corbin, Mr. Breen, Mr. Hodges, Mr. Austin and Mr. Knutting, that the Kettle River Valley is the most economical place to smelt the ores of British Columbia and Washington State, and will build up one of the greatest industries in the country, and will eventually employ thousands of men at high wages, and whereas, no bonus is asked for this charter, we believe it should be granted as a matter of course by Parliament.

"Whereas, The duty is quite sufficient to keep American goods out, and over 90 per cent. of the goods and merchandise consumed in this section are to-day bought in Canada;

"Be it resolved, That we heartily endorse the application for the Kettle River Railway, and request and instruct that a representative for this board appear before the Railway Committee, as representing the people of this city, and urge upon the Railway Committee and the Government to grant said charter."

STRATFORD BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of Stratford Board of Trade was held Friday, 2nd inst., when a resolution was adopted sympathizing with the Brandon Board of Trade in the difficulty in which they find themselves in consequence of the railway company's discrimination against that place, and hoped that speedy relief would be found in the form of a railway commission. The board emphasized its sympathy by adopting a second resolution recommending "That a railway commission be formed by the Government for the purpose of adjusting freight rates, especially with a view to providing against undue discrimination in local rates."

The officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, George McLagan; vice-president, C. McIlhargey; treasurer, Wm. Maynard; secretary, D. M. Ferguson.

FORT WILLIAM BOARD OF TRADE.

Some interesting figures are presented in the annual address of the president of the Fort William Board of Trade: "The number of vessels which entered during the past year was 942, of registered 1,003,422 tons; net tonnage, 365,488 tons. The freight received on wharves was as follows: Merchandise, 100,000 tons, as against 82,400 tons in 1898; coal 235,000 tons as against 182,000; iron, 30,500 tons as against 59,900 tons in 1898. The freight shipped from the harbor was 14,715,330 bushels of wheat, 4,014,751 bushels of this quantity was carried by American vessels. There was also 63,000 tons of flour shipped out. There is now in store in elevators at this place 2,900,000 bushels of wheat."

The officers for the ensuing year are: President, E. A. Morton; vice-president, Harry Murphy; secretary-treasurer, E. R. Wayland; council, W. F. Hogarth, C. W. Jarvis, J. J. Wells, A. McDougall, W. L. Morton, A. Snelgrove, Wm. McCall, D. C. Graham, John King, C. H. Jackson, E. S. Rutledge, James Hammond.

LIFE INSURANCE WRITTEN IN 1899 IN U. S.

Taken by itself, the announcement of aggregate writings is no criterion of progress, for the basis of reporting new business is, generally speaking, false, inflated and misleading. But by comparison with other years, some estimate may be made of the actual progress achieved. The figures of most of the companies have been made known in round numbers for 1899, and the following table shows the business done in that year, together with the writings of 1898. Many of the figures are taken from the reports in the Western Underwriter, and others