

country held by the cheese made in the state of New York over a period of forty years:

	Per ct.		Per ct.
In 1850.....	47	In 1880.....	53
In 1860.....	47	In 1890.....	48
In 1870.....	63		

Wisconsin is next in importance as a cheese-making state, its percentage of the total production in 1890 being 21. Following Wisconsin are Ohio, 8.7 per cent; Illinois, 4 per cent, and Vermont, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Michigan."

INSURANCE MATTERS.

Politics has its rewards sometimes. When Mr. Benjamin Harrison ceased to be President of the United States he returned to the comparative obscurity of townships law. But he had influential friends who kept him in view when big fees were going. Mr. Harrison was engaged as counsel in the Venezuela case, and his fee for this service is said to be \$100,000. The Insurance Register understands that he already had \$150,000 insurance on his life and will presently add to that sum.

On Friday afternoon of last week, says The New York Journal of Commerce, in response to an invitation, about twenty prominent fire underwriters met at the Liverpool and London and Globe building to consider the present unfortunate condition of the fire insurance business and endeavor to discover some method of improving the situation. The gradual but persistent fall in rates to unprofitable figures, the non-union companies' high commissions, non-board competition—particularly that of the United States Lloyds—and last but not least the heavy fire losses, have made serious inroads on the surpluses of many companies. The meeting was quite informal and those present unburdened their minds, but it was evident before the proceedings had advanced far that a diagnosis and not a remedy would be the result of the conference.

One by one the old fashioned things are falling away. It used to be the habit years ago for fire insurance companies to label the house on which they had taken a risk. The Missouri Star says that it was a matter of pride for the householder to have a small metal sign on which was stamped in gilt letters, "Niagara" or "Aetna" or something of the sort tacked on the gable end of his porch. It was an indication that he was a business man and took life seriously. One rather pitied in those days the family of the man on whose house there was no insurance sign. It indicated that the head of the house was probably not a "good provider" and unthrifty. This little badge of thrift has gone out of usage, probably because fire insurance has become so common that it is not worth while to call the attention of the world to the fact that you are protected.

The compressed or liquid air promoter is amongst us, and companies and patents in connection therewith darken the air. Perpetual motion is whispered of, and how to ensure something being got out of nothing. Respectfully commended to the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association.—London Insurance Review.

During last week, the Canadian secretary of the Standard Life, Mr. J. Hutton Balfour, on his way to Winnipeg, spent a couple of days in Toronto, where he interviewed the agents of the company. Considering the number of new companies in the field, and the increasing competition, Mr. Balfour expressed himself as highly pleased with the business done by the company, especially in Toronto, which, we are told, shows a large increase at the end of May over that to same date, 1898. While in the city Mr. Balfour entertained members of the staff and others at luncheon in the Queen's Hotel.

Ottawa has started out to form a fire insurance company, which it may be supposed will not join the association. Up to Tuesday last there had been secured subscriptions of stock from twenty-eight parties aggregating in value \$240,000. It is desired to have say \$300,000 subscribed in amounts of \$5,000 and upwards, after which the stock books will then be thrown open to the general public who may wish to take an interest in the concern. Here is a complete list of the subscribers up to the 13th inst.: \$10,000 each—J. R. Booth, C. Magee, G. B. Pattee, C. Ross, D. Murphy, J. Roberts Allan, John Mather, C. B.

Powell, M.P.P., C. J. Booth, John Coates, A. Lumsden, M.P.P., R. J. Devlin, F. X. St. Jacques, J. A. Gemmill, C. C. Ray, J. A. Seybold, McLaughlin Bros., B. Rosamond, M.P., W. C. Edwards, M.P., W. D. Morris; \$5,000 each—G. S. May, Hon. Geo. Bryson, A. Barnet, Allan Francis (Renfrew), Allan & Fleming, W. D. Hogg, Thos. Mackay, M.P., W. J. Pcupore, M.P.

We regret to learn that the large and handsome new residence of the University of Mount Alison, at Sackville, N.B., was burned on Sunday morning last. The fire is supposed to have originated in the furnace. Professor Tweedie loses his library; some of the hospital and college society pictures and furniture were saved. The following insurances are telegraphed: Queen and Liverpool and London and Globe, \$10,000 each; Imperial and Commercial Union, \$7,500 each; Union, \$5,000.

IN THE DRY GOODS STORE.

Hot weather goods are in order now and everybody seems to be making preparation for a few weeks at summer resorts.

The Coaticooke, Que., woolen mill was burned to the ground on June 9th. The fire caught in the picking room. Only a few looms and some stock were saved. The loss is about \$10,000, which is partly insured. The building is a total loss.

An excellent advertisement is that of G. B. Ryan & Co., Guelph, now running in The Mercury. The space occupied by the firm in the newspaper extending over several columns, contains a cut of a big trans-atlantic liner, with these words in large type: "ONCE MORE THEY'RE OFF, OUR THREE BUYERS." Messrs. Ryan & Co. make interesting statements about their three stores.

From Nottingham it is reported that "the plain departments are very busy and the lace departments fairly well off, but there are departments—the embroideries, for instance—which are slack. Such goods as bobbin nets, mosquito nets, and tulles can scarcely be supplied fast enough, and there are no stocks to speak of. In laces, Valenciennes is still most popular, but other makes sell pretty well, and special goods are being made in quantity."

For five months of the present year no fewer than fifty new cotton mills have been built or are projected in the Southern States of the Union. These mean the employment of 600,000 or perhaps 700,000 new spindles, and the expenditure of perhaps \$11,500,000. Besides this, says The Commercial Bulletin, some thirty of the established cotton manufacturing concerns are enlarging their plants, which will add 400,000 more spindles. Much of this industrial expansion is taking place in North and South Carolina, but Georgia is a good third.

Mail advices from Leeds, Yorkshire, state: "Warehouse stocks of winter cloths are much reduced during the few days that business has been resumed. The turnover has been principally of reversibles, presidents, beavers, heavy diagonals, and mixture overcoatings. Of tweeds, mixtures and the Irish kinds are the most salable, prices being steady. At a sale by auction of some thousand pieces of meltons the ordinary prices for medium sorts were barely realized. Cloths for women's wear have been poor business owing to the bad weather, and they are still quiet."

The dry goods section of the Montreal Board of Trade has expressed by resolution its surprise that another serious case of undervaluation has been settled by the Government, and they refer to the case of 5th June, which we mentioned last week. "The firm referred to have largely advertised the Gold Medal dress goods as extra value and cheap. It now appears that they are being undervalued at the customs, and in some cases German goods have been passed as English to obtain the rebate in the duties." The resolution goes on to say that the dry goods trade expects the Government to protect the members who honestly pay the full duty, and not to leave them open to unfair competition of unprincipled persons, who do not pay the proper duty. And the association "protests in the strongest way against the Government compromising any case in which fraud is suspected, and hopes that the policy pursued in the future will be never to compromise any such cases."