year's premiums will be so limited that rebating as a serious evil can no longer exist so far as the agents of the Equitable are concerned.

"This being so, it is obvious that the plan involved in the treaty or compact between the companies becomes superfluous, as it had already proved fruitless. We, therefore, by this communication give notice that we elect to withdraw forthwith from the agreement signed by representatives of life insurance companies at a meeting called by Hon. George S. Merrill, Insurance Commissioner for the State of Massachusetts, in the Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York city, on Saturday, October 12, 1895.

"If, as we hope, our example will be followed by other companies in respect to the manner of compensating agents, we may look for a new era in the fair and rational conduct of the great business of life insurance. This society proposes to take the most radical steps to effect a real reform within its own ranks, and as this letter is also to be sent to the other companies, parties to the agreement, it appeals to its neighbors in the business to take the same step. Hearty co-operation on the part of other companies will make the relief universal and complete."

We take pleasure in spreading the glad tidings of this new and promising crusade against rebating.

MR. A. G. RAMSAY.

President of Canada Life Resigns Office.

Followed by the highest respect and esteem of policy-holders and the genuine affection of every one in the insurance world throughout the Dominion, Mr. A. G. Ramsay, president of the Canada Life Insurance Company, is retiring to private life. At the last annual meeting of the company, he was unanimously re-appointed to the office he is now resigning, and the announcement of his decision to surrender the managerial reins has been received with general regret. Mr. Ramsay has been for many years a commanding figure in insurance circles, his sterling worth and ability being recognized by all who are engaged in the life insurance business on the American continent. The prominent position of the Canada Life, a company virtually created by its retiring president, is the result of his skilful management and superior ability, and when contemplating the severance of his connection with the institution which owes its almost national importance to his work and guidance, Mr. Ramsay must have derived pleasure from knowing that his life's work is good to look upon and has merited the approval of his fellow-men.

An army of friends will join in wishing the respected father of the Canada Life many years of ease and comfort in his pleasant home among the people of Hamilton, whose affection and respect he has always enjoyed. The Canada Life are fortunate in having Mr. Ramsay's wise counsel and ripe experience to appeal to when requisite, and the policy-holders of the Canada Life will be pleased to know that, although retiring from the active management of the company, Mr. Ramsay will continue to give his successor, and the officials with whom he has been associated for many years, the benefit of his wise counsel and ripe experience, whenever requisite in the interest of the company.

Mr. E. W. Cox is now the General Manager, and Mr. F. Sanderson, Actuary of the Canada Life Assurance Company, their head quarters being in future, in the city of Toronto.

ENGLISH AGRICULTURAL RETURNS, 1899.

The British Agricultural Department has just issued an elaborate return relating to the agricultural conditions existing in the old country this year as compared with those of the ten past years. The returns do not exhibit the actual total yield of the various crops, but give the acreage devoted to the different grains, roots and hay. These returns are watched with intense interest, as the farming classes in the old land are in a state of chronic depression, and the great landowners, who are chiefly the aristocracy of England, are having serious inroads made into their once colossal incomes. England, in fact, is going through a revolution of great moment, yet its working is so quiet as to excite little notice. Estate after estate is being bought up by successful manufacturers merchants and financiers, who, in the old country, are never happy with their wealth until they have got "a stake in the country," as the saying is, by being landed proprietors. The Government return shows the following to be the areas devoted to wheat, barley and oats in 1899, compared with preceding years; the figures relate to number of acres:—

	Wheat.	Barley and Oats.	Total.
1890........	2,386,336	5,013,664	7,400,000
1893........	1,897,544	5,246,833	7,144,377
1898........	2,102,206	4,821,426	6,923,632
1899........	2,000,981	4,941,863	6,942,844
Ave. 10 years ..	1,984,272	5,115,421	7,099,693

	Potatoes.	Rotation. Hay.	Permanent. Hay.
1890........	529,661	2,292,194	4,778,639
1893........	527,821	2,047,008	4,270,480
1898........	524,591	2,381,551	4,536,315
1899........	547,682	2,214,883	4,339,025

As compared with 1889, this year shows as below:—

	Wheat.	Barley and Oats.	Potatoes.
1889........	2,449,354	5,010,234	579,222
1899........	2,000,981	4,941,863	547,682
Decrease	448,373 acres.	68,371 acres.	31,540 acres.

For the decline in the acreage devoted to wheat by 448,373 acres in the last ten years we fear Canada is, to some extent, responsible, and this continent wholly so, as England cannot grow wheat in competition with Manitoba and the North West. In the matter of live stock, the returns show as follows:—

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.
1890........	6,508,632	27,272,459	2,773,609
1893........	6,700,676	27,280,334	2,113,530
1898........	6,622,364	26,743,194	2,451,595
1899........	6,795,725	27,237,664	2,623,813