

directions, which we propose to notice in another issue.

With regard to barley, of which the United Kingdom imports four to six millions sterling worth per year, a report is printed in full, dated November last, from the judges in a barley competition at the Brewers' Exhibition. This report, which recites the essential characteristics of barley, its vitality, its nitrogenous quality, its color, its maturing, says the barley submitted by Canada "comes out exceedingly well in several particulars." The samples showed, however, "inequality of growth, improper maturing, harvesting at an improper stage of growth, improper exposure on the ground, and want of stacking." The Beardless and Duck-bill varieties shown were pronounced unsuitable for malting in Great Britain, but the Chevalier and Golden Melon commended themselves for appearance, soundness, and other inherent qualities. The samples compared very favorably with French, Danish and other European barleys, "and if sent in good condition a very large quantity could be consumed in this country with great satisfaction to the brewers and consumers of beer." Then follow some suggestions as to treatment of the grain to bring it into best condition, natural sweating being strongly insisted upon.

The commissioner does not find it practicable to open up a trade in compressed hay between Canada and the United Kingdom. Still we find Mr. Grahame, the Glasgow agent, saying on page 84 of pamphlet, that "considerable quantities have come over of late, the quality as a rule excellent, being chiefly timothy from Ontario, in compressed bales of about 1½ cwts. in weight. It is especially well thought of for horses, and the best quality brings about 15 cents per ton more than best quality hay in this country." As to canned fruits, canned meats, fish, bacon, poultry, however, "there appears a decided desire to give the preference to colonial articles if at a price and of a quality equal to those now sold," i.e., mainly those from the United States, respecting which "it is said on all sides that there is room for an improvement in quality." Canadian bacon and hams, it appears, are much more in favor than American because of their quality, and Sir Charles thinks there is an opportunity for feeding with profit a much larger number of pigs than is now done on Canadian farms. He adds that we would have an advantage in canning meats for export since tin plate costs so much more in the States than with us.

Dried and canned fruits are increasing greatly in popularity in Britain. "An immense trade is done in apples, which are cut into rings and dried. They are sold at about ten cents per pound." The same price is obtained for apples cored and dried, mostly from the United States. Trade in both these could be developed. Canadian apples have established a reputation and bring a higher price in Britain than American. It is urged, however, that great care must be taken in selecting and packing them. Canned peaches are also very popular in the old country, and immense quantities are sold every year, put up, it seems, in California, and arriving in February.

"The fruit is put up in tins with syrup, and is sold in 3 lb. tins for about 16 to 18 cents wholesale." Pears are in market, too; "they come over in very much the same way as peaches, and the prices wholesale are about 28 cents per 3-lb tins. Tomatoes are sent to England from France and Portugal, whole, in tins, with some juice to preserve them, 3-lb. or 4-lb tins being sold at fivepence each. Canadian canned lobsters and canned salmon are already sought after in preference to others," and the trade in them is deemed capable of great extension.

#### LOSSES BY FIRE.

The annual address by the president to the members of the Fire Underwriters' Association of the North-West, delivered this year, on the 7th October, by Mr. Eddy, embraced some important subjects. Among them were State Boards, Inspection Bureaus, Schedule Rates and Loss Ratio. In reference to the last he said that it kept up to sixty per cent. with wonderful persistency, in spite of every improvement in architecture, fire appliances and water supply. The question is, can the loss ratio be reduced? He submitted the two following propositions, inasmuch as the loss ratio and the mode of inspection had a vital connection:

1st. That the object of inspection should be to acquaint ourselves with the pertinent risks we are assuming.

2nd. That such information, to be of much value, should be had in time, if possible, to prevent defective or badly exposed property being placed upon our books.

What seemed to be needed now-a-days, in the view of the speaker, was

1st. Expert inspection.

2nd. Reasonable frequency of inspection.

3rd. In time for use before the risk is written.

Incendiarism and how to minimize it was next referred to. Mr. Eddy considered fire inquests a good thing, and if it were known and established by law that every loss would be fully inquired into jointly by the insurance companies and the public, by one's own neighbors appointed by law, it would prevent a multitude of losses.

The neglect of companies in keeping pace with the rapid growth of electricity, and insisting on proper safeguards, has been dearly paid for. The speaker recommended that this subject be referred to a special committee. High buildings, now so common, call for high-pressure water works, such as have been in use in London and other European cities, in which the power reservoir consists of accumulators loaded to a pressure of 750 pounds to the square inch—equal to a gravity pressure of 1,500 feet above the street level. Such a system would have prevented the great fire in the City of Minneapolis a few months ago and similar ones that may threaten us.

After recommending that a committee be appointed to welcome the great insurance fraternity to the World's Fair in 1892, the president referred in appropriate and feeling terms to the death, since the last Annual Meeting, of four of their members, and he expressed the hope that those who are

left may live lives of untainted honor and gratitude for what they receive.

The applause which followed the president's admirable address was most enthusiastic, and a committee of five was appointed to consider and report on the recommendations it contained. Remarks on the rest of the proceedings must be deferred to a future time.

#### ACCIDENT INSURANCE.

The students of social science find an interesting subject for study in the facts and circumstances connected with life and accident insurance. The accumulation in recent years of a large variety of curious and commonplace occurrences in the way of accidents, and their tabulation as a guide to insurance managers, has enlarged the field of the social economist in this direction. A paper by Mr. James R. Pitcher in the September *Forum* brings together in an interesting way a number of these facts and makes or hints deductions from them. Among the curious things to be learned from the data of accident assurance we may mention these: It appears to be established that a man is much more likely to lose his left hand or his left eye than his right hand or his right eye—and it is well, we remark, that it should be so. Again, it is learned from these statistics that when a man insures himself against accidents he thereby diminishes very greatly the risk of accident. If we are puzzled by this statement, and probably some of us are, the explanation of it is made by Mr. Pitcher thus: "When a man's attention is called to a danger he fixes his mind on it and thereby consciously or unconsciously makes unusual efforts to avert it. It therefore happens that a man is more likely to be a victim of an accident of a kind that he never thought of than the kind against which he insures himself. A man, for instance, who handles sharp tools will insure himself against an accident from the use of them, and the first thing he knows that same man will be drawing pay from an insurance company for an injury done by getting a cinder in his eye." The writer of the article has further found that accidents are much more common in the sparsely settled portions of the country than in the densely settled portions, and that they happen more frequently in the middle of winter and middle of summer than at other seasons of the year.

#### LIFE ASSURANCE EXPENSES.

Among the papers read at the recent meeting in Toronto of the Actuarial Society of America was one connected with a subject the importance of which no one will gainsay, namely, the expenses of life assurance companies. And, as is remarked by the author of the paper, Mr. William D. Whiting, the item of expenses has not hitherto had its due share of consideration as a factor in life assurance calculations. It has been "either ignored or lumped together with some other in the most inconsiderate manner" in a way that is unsafe, and has led to confused results. Actual expenses in life assurance refuse to conform in actual