The Insurance Commissioner, of Wisconsin, says:—"I do not regard Co-operative Life Assurance Companies as sound in theory or likely to be beneficial in practice and from my knowledge and experience I have no faith in their stability."

The Hon. Oliver Pilsbury, Insurance Commissioner for New Hampshire, says: "Co-operative Companies, after a brief existence, have proved disastrous failures, enriching a few officers only, and leaving their deluded victims to claw at the air."

The Insurance Commissioner of Connecticut "believes the assessment societies to be unsound in theory and their tenure of life but temporary."

The Hon. Elizur Wright, ex-Commissioner of Massachusetts, and one of the best insurance authorities in the United States, says:

"If the co-operative scheme is to be called insurance at all, it is merely temporary insurance on credit. Just as sure as the down-hill road of life grows steeper and steeper, and the demands on the living members become correspondingly heavier, this credit will prove a failure, they have contributed largely to the indemnity of others, and now, when health has failed, as well as the association they belong to, they find themselves unable to enter any good Company and are therefore left in the lurch."

With the facts above authenticated, and the views held by the best authorities on this continent, which should correspond with those held by any business man of common sense, I think the Government are not fulfilling their duty to the public unless they take the matter up at the next Parliament, and not give it a year's hoist as was done before.

Yuors, &c.,
H. M. Poussette.

STOCKS IN MONTREAL.

Montreal, Jan. 7, 1885.

Stocks.	Lowest Point in Week.	Highest Point in Week.	Total Transac'n in Week.	Buyers.	Sellers.	Average Price like Date, 1884.
Montreal	187	187¾	1046	187½	187¾	177
" x. d.	......	......	......	......	......	......
Ontario	105¼	106	80	105	......	......
People's	......	44½	28	44	45½	......
Molson's	110	111½	97	109½	111	......
Toronto	176	177	247	176	177½	......
Jac. Cartier	......	......	......	......	......	......
Merchants	108½	109	148	108¾	109	108½
Commerce	117¼	118½	761	117¾	118¼	......
Eastern Tps	......	......	......	......	......	......
Union	......	......	......	......	......	......
Hamilton	......	......	......	......	......	......
Exchange	......	......	......	......	......	......
Mon. Tel.	112	113½	873	113¼	113¾	118¼
Dom. Tel.	......	......	......	......	......	......
Rich.&O.	58½	58¾	461	58¼	58¾	58½
City Pass	119¾	121½	483	120½	121	118
Gas	180½	182½	1057	181¼	181¾	178½
" x.d.	......	......	......	......	......	......
R. C. Ins. Co	......	......	......	......	......	......

KNITTED GOODS IN CANADA.

At this time there is but little being done at the knitting mills in Canada. The few mills making light-weight underwear for spring and summer are working on the orders received, but the orders taken thus far are pitiably small compared with those of former seasons. Some of the wholesale houses decline buying at all, professing to have enough on hand from last season to tide them over the next spring and summer. However, it is probable that the jobbers will make their repeats, later in the season, large enough to fill up the usual volume of this class of trade, as a certain quantity will surely be required, and the orders for them are not yet placed. The cheaper grades in this line of goods are most in demand, as is the case in winter goods.

Again, there are more mills now in the market with spring goods than there have been in former years, which will of course reduce the quantity manufactured by each mill. This is also the time in which the mills are getting up their samples of winter goods for the season of 1885. It is very likely, owing to the state of trade, that there will be a general shut-down of all the knitting mills in January and February, or at least a very great slackening off from the present low rate of production. It is probable that there will be no orders for winter goods placed before March 1st, and all the mills have thoroughly learned the lesson taught by a stock of unsold goods. As they have done in the past year, they will restrict themselves to making only the goods actually ordered.

The stock of goods in the manufacturers' hands is lower than it has been for years past, as they have all been bent on clearing off their old stocks at any price, so as to realize something on them, and have a low stock to begin the next season with.

Several mills have taken the opportunity to work up their wastes, which have been accumulating for several years past, while the "boom" was on. The makers of such goods know by this time that waste lots do not realize cost, but as it is about the only way to dispose of such stock, the loss must be borne.

A prominent dry-goods house in Toronto has been writing to manufacturers all over the country, asking what stock of goods they have on hand, and the lowest cash prices they would take for them. Their purpose in so doing is not quite clear, but it cannot be to buy. Sellers are too plenty, and that too, at almost any price, and the least disposition evinced to buy would attract bargains, if buying were the object in view. It is more probable that some one wants to get some idea of the stocks of goods in the manufacturers' hands.

It is simply astonishing, in reading the advertisements of retailers, to note the prices at which knitted goods are now sold. We quote the following: "Heavy ribbed shirts and drawers, 25 cents each." (These are heavy goods, with a *very slight* percentage of wool, the mill price of which was formerly about $4 per dozen.) "All-wool ribbed shirts and drawers, 43 cents each." (These are the ordinary 12-pounds to the dozen, sold at $6 per dozen this season, and at $8 per dozen in former years.)

In explanation of this, it must be said that the dealers selling at these prices retail at wholesale prices as a bait to sell other goods; the same thing is done in these lines by the wholesale houses; and to go further back, the manufacturer does likewise. If this state of things applied to only one or two lines, it would not be so bad; but it is getting to be the same with nearly all other lines of knit goods as well. The retail house in question, advertising knit goods at the prices herein quoted, makes quite a boast of beating down the manufacturer, but it can safely be said that selling these goods at retail, at the prices herein quoted, will not result in any "mammoth" profits. People who want a stock of underclothing cheap, should lay in a good stock now, for it seems almost certain that next year will see a stiffening in prices of knit goods.

Any brightening of the prospects of the trade will be a great relief to all concerned in it, as there have now been two very poor years indeed.—*Textile Record, Phila.*

FIRE RECORD.

Ontario.—Claremont, Jan. 3.—Russell's flour and oatmeal mill burned. The loss will be over $7,000; insurance $3,080.——Toronto 3rd.—McCance's grocery shop, Queen st., badly damaged; fire spread to Mrs. Lailey's dry goods store adjoining. Total loss to stock and buildings about $2,500. Partly insured.————Welland, 6th.—B. Wood's dwelling; loss $1,800; insured $400 in Waterloo on house, $300 on piano.——Belleville, 6th.—West's plaster factory, frame, burned; loss $800, insurance $200.——Princeton, 4th.—M. McArthurs' farm barn set on fire by upsetting of a lamp; 25 sheep, some stock implements and grain lost.

Other Provinces.—Hull, Que., Jan. 2.—A wooden house occupied by Ovide Leclerc and one adjoining by Louis Leclerc, burned down, and a child's life lost. The loss on buildings was $600.——St. Martin's, Que., Dec. 26.—Ben Dufresne's dwelling and barn burned down, two lives lost.——Winnipeg, Dec. 25.—Madame Trixy's saloon and two other frame buildings burned.——26th.—Hector McLean's storehouse at Fort Rouge burned, used as a stable by Connolly & Madigan, who lose $500. McLean loses $2,000, insurance $1,200.——Point du Chene, N. B., Dec. 30.—A fire started in the stables of the Royal hotel, and burned that hotel, owned by Mrs. A. D. Clarke, and also the Bay View hotel and store, owned by John McDonald, and Mrs. McLellan's dwelling. Michael Harney's house was damaged. Total loss $4,000 to $5,000. Mrs. Clarke has $1,000 insurance in the N. B. & M. McDonald has $1,000 in the City of London.——Montreal, 29.—Dr. Laporte's drug store took fire, loss slight. Mrs. Innes, who lives overhead, has furniture insured in Citizens.——Quebec, 4th—Trinity Church interior damaged $3,000, is insured in the British America for $8,000, half reinsured in the Niagara of New York. A house owned and occupied by a man named Dupuis on Queen street gutted and the entire contents destroyed; loss $1,200.——Rock Island, Que., 5th.—The shoe shops, storehouse and a four tenement dwelling house of Jondro & Goodhue. The manufactured stock was saved in a damaged condition, also sole leather and part of the machinery. The estimated loss is from $5,000 to $8,000. The buildings insured for $1,400 in Sherbrooke Mutual, stock for $5,400 in equal parts in the Hartford, Ætna and Phœnix.——Hastings, B.C., Dec. 18th.—Office of the Hastings saw mill burned, loss slight. St. Therese, 5th.—The parish church has been burned, loss heavy; probably $50,000.——Montreal, 6th.—Cigar store on St. Catharine st. burned; loss and insurance small.

—It would appear that the affairs of the Canada Steel Company may not be entirely hopeless, and that the Londonderry Iron Mines may yet be worked to advantage. A reporter of the Halifax *Herald*, who last week made enquiry of Mr. R. G. Leckie—manager of the Cumberland Coal & Iron Co., a practical metallurgist and an experienced miner—as to the Steel Company's prospects, received the following reply:

"Under the management of liquidators, a fair profit is being made. Mr. Jamme, is a good technical manager, and the business is now being put upon a sound and prosperous footing. I think that a reorganization is probable, into which Canadian capital will be put, and parties in the country being largely interested, the business is likely to be more successful. A new kind of ore, called a spathose, which is a carbonate of iron, has been discovered in the old vein of Acadia mines, which is apparently in large quantities, as greater depth is obtained. This is considered the most valuable of all iron ores. The pig iron now being produced is of better quality than any hitherto made, and the furnace yielded a much larger proportion of foundry pig. Another important point is the cheapening of fuel, the coke being obtained at a cheaper rate than before. This is made to a great extent from Spring Hill slack, which produces a large and firm coke, with a very small percentage of ash. Iron at the present moment is as low or perhaps lower than has ever been known in the history of the trade. And if these works can hold their own under existing conditions, they are likely to yield a good return to the proprietors upon the improvement of business to which we are all looking confidently forward."

—Heddebault finds, according to the *Journal of the Society of Arts*, that when rags, of cotton and woollen mixed, are subjected to the action of a jet of superheated steam, under a pressure of five atmospheres, the wool melts and sinks to the bottom of the receptacle, while cotton, linen, and other vegetable fibres stand, thus remaining suitable for the paper manufacture. The liquid mud, which contains the wool thus precipitated, is then desiccated. The residue, which has received the name of azotine, is completely soluble in water, and is valuable on account of its nitrogen; moreover, its preparation costs nothing, because the increased value of the pulp, free from wool, is sufficient to cover the cost of the process.

—It is said that Mr. Wm. Harris, of Ashfield, who has carried on an extensive business in that township for a number of years, is in difficulty. He is the owner of a saw, grist and shingle mill together with 297 acres of land. He foolishly bought large quantities of grain at a time when he believed that it was as low as it could come, and lost a large sum of money in the speculation. Besides it has transpired that he has for years been running behind until his liabilities reach over $22,000. A good deal of sympathy is expressed for Mr. Harris, as people look upon him as an honest but unfortunate and foolish man. There was a meeting of creditors a few days ago, but we do not know what was done.—*Huron Expositor.*

—"Sugar at half cost," was the label posted in a Boston grocer's store window. "What are you paying per pound for sugar now?" asked a customer of the clerk at the sugar counter. "We are paying a trifle over six cents per pound at wholesale," said the clerk. "Well," said the customer, "I'll take a pound. Here's your pay," handing out three cents. The clerk delivered the goods, put the three cents in the money drawer, and then that sign came down in the twinkle of an eye. No more goods sold at "half cost" in that store.—*N. E. Grocer.*