

In commenting upon this matter, at the time mentioned, we said:—

"A visit to the battle fields and scenes of the past, the contemplation of monuments raised to the memory of those who have contributed to the building up of a Dominion, the creation of a vast Empire, is better calculated to stimulate patriotic feeling than the study of history, however attractive it may be made by a gifted imagination. Thus it is that the mere suggestion of selling for building purposes the pride of historic Quebec, the field where the gallant Wolfe fought and died, comes as a shock to those who glory in the history of our past. We do not like the ominous silence of those who are best able to contradict this rumour of contemplated sale of the Plains of Abraham."

However, we decline to believe that any such disposition of this bit of almost sacred ground will be permitted so long as any true lover of his country can raise voice or hand to prevent it.

The reply to the question put by Mr. Hughes to the House on Tuesday last will be awaited with interest.

THE OUTLOOK FOR ASSESSMENT INSURANCE.

Six years ago, when, for the life insurance business obtainable in the Dominion, there was keen competition between the old-line, or level premium, and the assessment companies, he would have required to be a bold man, and, besides, would have been con-

sidered exceedingly prejudiced, who would have predicted, as likely to occur so soon, the striking change in assessment company conditions, and consequently in public sentiment, which has taken place during that interval.

The Government Report of the business of 1892 embraced the showing of the following assessment companies:—

1. The Canadian Mutual Life;
2. The Commercial Travellers' Mutual Benefit Society;
3. The Home Life Association;
4. The Mutual Relief Society of Nova Scotia;
5. The Provincial Provident Institution;
6. The Covenant Mutual Benefit Association, of Illinois;
7. The Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association;
8. The Massachusetts' Benefit Association.

During that year, Nos. 1 and 4, which, at the end of 1891 had shown an aggregate of about 13 1-2 millions of insurance in force, disappeared from view, having been absorbed by No. 8, and the latter is now in the hands of the receiver (undertaker), so does not appear in the report of 1898 business. No. 3 is still alive and reporting, but is being changed to a joint stock company. No. 7 swallowed No. 5, but, like Pharaoh's leankind, does not appear to have been greatly improved in condition by the meal.

The following table shows the condition of the remaining ones at the end of 1892, and of 1898. The Provincial Provident and the Mutual Reserve are grouped as one because of their amalgamation in the interval:—

NAME OF COMPANY.	Am't of certificates, New and taken up.		Am't. of certificates in force.		Net Amount become Claims.	
	1892	1898	1892	1898	1892	1898
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Com. Trav. Mutual Benefit Society	233,000	144,000	1,884,000	2,383,000	14,000	23,000
Home Life Association	265,000	583,630	197,000	1,386,139	none	4,000
P. P. I. and Mutual Reserve	6,577,100	1,049,200	26,689,200	29,398,974	212,200	328,500
Covenant Mutual	2,043,875	119,625	4,576,875	2,345,500	19,750	40,000
Totals	9,118,975	1,896,455	33,347,075	35,513,604	245,950	395,500

Shade of Harper!! How are the mighty fallen! Over nine millions written in 1892, over ten and a half millions in 1893, and less than two millions in 1898! No earthquake about it either; only the gradual outworking of an outraged principle. Observe the gradual yet rapid decrease of popularity by the following table:—

Written in Year.	Amount.	Written in Year.	Amount.
1893	\$10,526,225	1896	\$6,142,500
1894	9,484,750	1897	2,951,800
1895	8,035,875	1898	1,896,455

Now mark what became of the business after it had been secured:—

There was in force at the end of 1892	\$33,347,075
Written during next 6 years, as above	39,037,605
Total	\$72,384,680
And in force at end of 1898, only	35,513,604
Showing terminations during the 6 years of	\$36,871,076

Over 39 millions written: nearly 37 millions, or

over 94 1-2 per cent. of it terminated! And it is safe to assume that the remaining 5 1-2 per cent. embraced the lives that meantime had become impaired, and little else.

The effect can be seen in the remaining item of the table—net amount become claims, which, again in turn, is doubtless to a considerable extent responsible for the rapidity of the retrogression, for in these matters the cause and effect work in a circle, the heavy lapses and heavy death rate acting and retro-acting on each other. Figured upon the *mean* amount of insurance in force in the respective years, the amount required for death claims represented, in '92, \$7.99 per \$1,000, and in '98, \$10.36, or about 30 per cent. more. But as the amount of insurance in force was in '92 a rapidly increasing, and in '98 a rapidly decreasing quantity, the method of measuring the death rate according to the mean insurance in force, while fair, scarcely gives an adequate idea of the rapidity with