

years have almost passed since the first link in the magnificent Grand Trunk system was begun. The present day sees nearly 3,000 miles under this management, and with what effect upon the trade of our chief city we do not need to say. The fame of Canada's other great railway, the Canadian Pacific, is world-wide. Stretching from the Atlantic ocean to the Pacific, with feeders in every province, it is bound up with the growth of the Dominion, and must, with its ocean lines, provided and projected, influence in no small degree the carrying trade of the world. With all this growth of what may be termed external commerce, it was to be expected that the importing and manufacturing trade of the city must by this time be great. And so it is. There are 30 boot and shoe factories in the city, employing four thousand persons and with an output of 4,500,000 pairs per annum. Rolling mills, machine shops, sugar refineries, cotton factories, breweries, flouring mills, pour their smoke heavenward. And this great city, apart from her investments in such industries within her own borders, furnishes capital for many more in various parts of the country. Banking capital, too, she furnishes in abundance, from the Bank of Montreal, seventy years old, with its \$12,000,000 capital, to the later and smaller French banks. The aggregate capital of the eight banks with headquarters in Montreal is over \$27,000,000. This, of course, is not all Montreal capital, but the institutions mentioned furnished, last year, over \$53,000,000 in discounts. Many of these particulars we gather from the Daily Star of Friday last, which in its forty columns devoted to the subject gives a most interesting historical and statistical survey of one of the great cities of North America.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE REPORT

Parts II. and III. of the annual report of the Superintendent of Insurance for the State of New York have been issued in a handsome volume. They deal exclusively with the life insurance and accident companies and assessment associations, part I. being devoted to the fire insurance companies. The number of life insurance companies embraced in the report is 29, of which 11 belong to New York State, 18 hail from outside places, 5 from Massachusetts, and 5 from Hartford, Conn. The number of companies is the same as it has been each year since 1880, though some changes have occurred. The Homœopathic Mutual of New York city has retired, and the Imperial Life Insurance Company of Detroit has entered the State to compete for business. Both of these companies are of small proportions.

The Homœopathic began in New York city in July, 1868, with a capital stock of \$200,000, its special hobby being to give the disciples of Hahnemann their life insurance at ten per cent. less rates than to other mortals. It seemed to be doing fairly well for ten years, getting a total business put in force of \$4,782,000, but at too great an expense. Its margin of assets was thus rendered too small, and to correct this one-half the capital was surrendered by its owners, but the public has never since been able to put full confidence in the company's pulling through. It ceased taking new business a year ago, and appears fully

able to re-insure all its policy-holders, or to return them their full surrender value. None but its stockholders stand to lose, but their loss will be almost if not quite total. The assets are \$174,353.30 and the liabilities about \$20,000. Its remaining policies are for only \$419,685, no less than \$2,367,079 having gone off the books during the year of suspension, chiefly by surrender. The item of \$221,679.51 appears as paid in cash for surrenders during 1887, and another of \$34,302.64 for deaths and endowments. Both the company now winding up and the Atlantic Mutual, which preceded it by ten years, were conducted upon similar experimental class lines—advantage to homœopaths—and both have failed. In other words, neither of them was able to give such benefits as both foolishly promised, but they might have lived on and been of some service in the world had they provided against the wintry day of the future by a better reserve fund than the mere 4½ per cent. N. Y. State requirement.

Hereafter all companies doing business in N. Y. State must possess a four per cent. reserve, the same as has been the standard from the first in Massachusetts and most New England States. Now that the best Government securities can no longer be had to yield better than four per cent., it will not be long before the leading States will be discussing a three and a half per cent. reserve; and as our Canadian standard has now practically no backers at four and a half per cent., it may well be urged that steps should at once be taken to bring it nearer to the prevailing standard. Already several New England companies, and notably the Connecticut Mutual, have bid good bye to four per cent. for private use, and transact no new business on other than the safer three and a half per cent. basis. The result will be smaller dividends to members the first ten years, but much larger ones later in life, and more safety all the way through.

The rapid growth of the life insurance business, as represented by the regular companies, is clearly brought out by the following recapitulation of the 29 companies reporting to the N. Y. superintendent in

	1880.	1887.
No. of policies in force	608,681	929,853
Amount of insurance.....	\$1,475,995,172	\$2,474,507,120
Gross assets.....	417,951,009	595,679,478

NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

As the years pass by the figures in this grand old company's report continue to increase to very large amounts. Last year the net premiums of the company reached £1,189,926, or not far from six million dollars, being a gain of about £47,000 on the year. But we find that this amount was by no means all saved, for there was a corresponding increase in the fire losses, which were £667,020. However, taking the results of the company's seventy-eighth year, the balance to credit of profit and loss has by them been increased from £282,997 to £316,470.

Out of the latter sum the directors have placed £100,000 to the credit of an account called dividend reserve fund. This is no doubt intended for the purpose of equalizing the dividend in the event of an unusual amount of fire losses. In addition to this, the shareholders will receive £1 per share and a bonus of 15/-, which will absorb \$175,000, leaving £41,470 to be carried forward. After all these sums are provided, the reserves, undivided profits, and the paid-up capital will

amount to £2,413,112 17s. 4d. Certainly a very handsome accumulation.

The life department, too, shows careful and prudent management. There has been an increase in the number of policies during the year from 876 to 1,057, assuring in 1887 the sum of £740,429, as against £683,633 in 1886. The income of the life assurance branch has increased during the year from £488,815 to £502,399, and thus, after paying nearly £300,000 in claims and bonus during the twelve months, the total amount of the life assurance fund is now £3,772,579, being an increase on 1886 of £126,860.

—The Wallaceburg Record man is a lively fellow, but he reads too fast, or else he does not digest what he reads. At any rate, his translation of part of a recent article of ours is "away off." He says that when a young man who wanted to go into business wrote to THE MONETARY TIMES for advice, "that journal advised him to keep out, for in all this broad land there is no room for him." Having this condensed version of our column article in his mind, the Record man expresses his contempt for it as so much twaddle, and declares in his energetic way, that "for a good, energetic business man, with capital, there is always room in any town. If he does his business on business principles, he will secure his part of the trade." Granted, O Record. But there is a mighty difference between an experienced and competent business man with adequate capital, and a sanguine youngster, "rising" twenty-one, whose knowledge of business was acquired by three years' tuition in a backwoods store. THE MONETARY TIMES tries to recollect what sort of a person asks advice, and gives advice accordingly. If requested to advise so sharp a customer as the Record man, we should probably say, with old Davy Crockett, "Be sure you're right, and then go ahead."

—Referring to a recent paragraph about counterfeits of the Bank of B. N. A. \$5 bill, dated 1877, circulating in the Maritime Provinces, it appears that this is a more recent attempt to work off bogus bills, some of which were put afloat as early as 1884. The bank had a new note prepared and issued upon the discovery of that counterfeit, and since that date, we are told, every \$5 note of 1877 issue, which has been redeemed, has been cancelled. A genuine \$5 note of the issue of 1877 is indeed now seldom seen.

—A suit is pending before the courts in New Brunswick in which the Dominion Government claims a preference for \$50,000 deposited by the Government in the defunct Maritime Bank. The liquidators resist the claim, and the probabilities are that the latter will be able successfully to resist the claim tentation of the Treasury to the preferential payment.

—A comparative statement of the exports and imports of merchandise at the port of Halifax for the months of April, 1887-88, shows a large increase for the present year. Total exports 1888, \$301,706; total imports 1888, \$560,451; total imports 1887, \$453,052; increase 1888, \$107,399. Duties collected 1888, \$176,756; duties collected in 1887, \$165,738; increase, 1888, \$11,018.

—The quotation from the Combines Committee Report, in last issue, third paragraph, should manifestly have read 30 cents per 100 pounds instead of 30 per cent. per 100 pound.