

7. this would make a total of 13 deaths from the whole 7 diseases, which might be extraordinarily few in comparison with the deaths from the same 7 diseases in other countries, yet consumption would have great prominence in Ontario. The true basis on which to rest a judgment as to the comparative fatality of consumption in any province or country is, to compare the number of deaths from that disease with the total mortality in one place, with the number of deaths from the same disease compared with the total mortality in another place. Comparing the respective fatalities of a number of diseases is highly interesting, and valuable as showing the weak spots in the health of a population, but of itself it does not indicate anything as to the general health of a people. We believe that the climate of Canada is incomparably more favorable for the health of persons inclined to consumption than the climate of the British Isles. This judgment, based on long observation of both, was also expressed by Lord Lister, the eminent physician, after his visit to Canada last summer.

**British Trade Going Back.** To those who regard the ostrich a wise bird because it hides its head in the sand so as not see its pursuers, it will be declared unpatriotic to point out how Great Britain is losing in the race between herself, the United States, Germany and France. It is, we believe, wisdom to look facts squarely in the face, and Canada should do this in the matter of British trade so as to avoid whatever defects in her system are giving her rivals their growing advantage. Since 1883, the States, Germany and France have increased their exports by \$105,000,000, while the exports of Great Britain in the same period declined \$45,000,000. The *London Daily Mail* gives these figures as proof of the old country "Marching Backwards." Before we accept this unpleasant theory, we require to know, whether a large quantity of the increased exports of those countries have or have not been purchased by Great Britain out of her abounding and ever-increasing wealth? If, as we believe is the case, Great Britain has so increased her consuming and purchasing capacities as to require greater supplies of foreign goods such as are not produced at home, or goods which she finds convenient to buy in those countries for re sale to her own customers, then the increased exports of her rivals are to a large extent evidences of the enterprise, and of the growing wealth of Great Britain, that is, of her Marching Forwards in prosperity, not "Backwards," as the *Daily Mail* asserts on what we regard as very insufficient evidence. Our English contemporary charges British shipowners with lack of patriotism, evidenced by their carrying foreigners' goods at lower rates than Britishers'. This is incredible, unless British shipowners do this to cut out foreign vessels in foreign ports by offering lower rates than they would take for British goods in a British port. That would

enlarge the British shipping trade, and so contribute to the general welfare of the country. Before we can judge whether Great Britain is being beaten by foreign rivals we need more detailed evidence as to the destination of the exports of her rivals, and as to the specific points at which Great Britain is losing ground. One thing we admit, and we caution Canadian exporters against it, which is this, British exporters in past years have been far too independent in their methods in supplying foreign markets. They have tried to make foreigners adapt their tastes to British ideas, instead of adapting British goods to foreign tastes. But this old fault is now being remedied, and John Bull, and his sons too, though slow to start, can show their heels to any competitor when once their mettle is roused.

**The New Premium Rates not**

**Popular.** There are indications that the movement initiated by the New York Life, the Mutual Life, and the Equitable is not popular with other companies. The Northwestern Mutual Life when invited to fall into line declined, preferring to make no change in its present rates. The Provident Life & Trust takes the same position, as this company anticipated the recent movement by adopting the new basis of 31-2 per cent. last year. The Penn Mutual and the Michigan Mutual are each considering the matter, with a prospect of no change being made. The officials of the Mutual Life of Kentucky and of the Union Central report there being no intention on their part to follow the example of the three giants. We have heard of other companies in the States who are not inclined to make any change at present. The position of the English companies has been stated by us in previous issues, as well as that of the Canadian ones, which are a unit in their disinclination to make any change.

**The New Canal Scheme**

Mr. McLeod Stewart has just returned from the old country in high spirits over the favor shown by British capitalists to his scheme for a canal between Montreal and the Georgian Bay, via Ottawa. He reports that "an eminent firm of contractors has been successfully approached with regard to the construction of the canal." The phrase "successfully approached" is somewhat vague, but if it means all that it seems to imply, the financial arrangements for raising the requisite funds for building the new canal have reached a further stage than has been revealed to the public. This must be so if it is true, as Mr. McLeod Stewart is reported to have said in this city that "the work of construction will be begun as soon as weather permits next spring, and the canal completed in all probability within three years." We should be glad to know what the financial arrangements are for carrying out this enterprise which will involve an expenditure of fifteen millions. If the stream of traffic from the North West is tapped as