

LIFE ASSURANCE IN FRANCE.

Life assurance is making progress in France. A compilation made last month by *L'Agent d'Assurances*, a Paris journal, shows that all but three of sixteen companies whose figures are given made gains in new business during 1905 over 1904. The annexed table shows what their total new risks written amounted to. Besides the nine companies named in the list there were seven others which wrote lesser amounts, viz.: Le Monde, L'Aigle, La Confiance, Le Patrimoine, La Foncière, Le Nord, La Providence, whose aggregate is 53,704,979 francs, which is equal to \$10,700,000 nearly:—

Companies.	New Assurances.	
	1904. fr.	1905. fr.
Cie d'Assurance générales.....	65,113,387	68,000,000
L'Union	33,561,163	34,500,000
La Nationale	67,047,691	70,054,456
Le Phénix	51,621,520	55,700,000
La Caisse Paternelle	12,946,445	12,969,196
L'Urbaine	48,978,143	49,773,553
Le Soleil	12,039,078	12,300,000
L'Abèille	16,518,854	18,012,000
La France	17,122,987	17,035,417
Other companies	53,704,979	55,114,635
Totaux	378,654,247	393,459,257

These totals are, approximately, \$75,000,000 for 1904 and \$78,000,000 for 1905, the gain in the latter year being, say \$3,000,000. The claims of the two years in the case of all the sixteen companies amounted to 54,463,100 francs (say \$10,500,000), in 1904 and 55,853,702 (say \$11,500,000) in 1905. Nine of the companies show a decrease in claims and seven an increase. The greatest increase is in the case of La Nationale, while noteworthy decreases are shown by L'Union and La Foncière.

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REVIEW.

The issue for March 1906 of this now familiar publication is just to hand in the shape of an appendix to Volume V. It is entitled by its publisher, Mr. W. R. Houston, "a carefully revised précis of facts regarding Canadian securities;" and so far as we have been able to discover in a necessarily brief survey it has been carefully revised. Such a compound of facts and figures, names and dates, comparisons and percentages—it contains 306 pages, apart altogether from advertisements, with reviews of 118 banks and other corporations—involves enormous labor and requires not only expert knowledge but clear and level heads in its compilation. There are in its pages condensed statements of 18 banks, 13 insurance companies, 19 land, loan, and mortgage companies, 18 street railways (in Canada and the United States), trust companies, mining companies, navigation companies, industrial concerns; their balance sheets, condensations of their affairs and the names of their directors. To all this is added tables showing approximate yield of stocks and bonds, etc., and lists of members of the Montreal and Toronto Stock Exchanges. For investors or for bankers and sharebrokers it is a valuable publication.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Some six years ago, a group of enterprising people in Halifax exerted themselves to found and have incorporated the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nova Scotia. That body held its sixth annual meeting on the 6th March, on which occasion, owing to the death of the president and absence of the vice-president, R. A. McIntyre, Mr. E. Kaulbach occupied the chair.

The council's report noted with much regret the death of President S. S. Scott, who had been president since the incorporation of the institute and one of its most faithful

and energetic workers. The demand for expert accountants has largely increased, and the membership had enjoyed a large patronage. Many enquiries regarding the necessary term of experience and qualifications for admission had been received. It was stated that R. Carter, of Royal Securities Company, and J. Godfrey Artz had passed the final examinations, the degree of Chartered Accountant being conferred on each. The following had passed the intermediate examinations:—J. Percival Atherton, Amherst; E. S. N. Eaton, B.A., Charlottetown; Chas. H. Glendinning, New Glasgow; Percy L. McNeill, Montreal; Vernon A. Parrish, Kingston; Fred. B. Schurman, Truro. Officers were elected for the current year as follows:—President, R. A. McIntyre; vice-president, W. E. Leverman; secretary, E. Kaulbach; treasurer, G. G. Dustan. The council for the year includes above officers and also A. Allan, J. G. Artz, R. Carter and R. Schurman.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA.

We have seen the announcement for 1906 of this body, which intends to hold its annual intermediate and final examinations on the 29th, 30th and 31st of May. Applications from those intending to take either will be received by the secretary up to the 16th of that month. The examinations will be held in the city of Winnipeg, but the council may arrange for non-residents to write at their place of residence.

The subjects for the intermediate examination will embrace the following:—Bookkeeping in all its branches; Bills of Exchange Act; the Joint Stock Companies' Act; partnerships—the different kinds and the relation of partners to each other and the public; general office knowledge.

The subjects for the final examination will embrace the following:—Auditing; advanced bookkeeping and accounts; executors' duties and accounts; joint stock and partnership accounts; general commercial law. Only those who have passed their intermediate examinations, either there or with sister institutes, will be eligible for the final. All applications must be on the official form, copy of which will be supplied by the secretary on application. His name is W. A. Henderson, P. O. Box 409, Winnipeg.

Elsewhere will be found noted some proceedings of the annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Institute of Chartered Accountants. We understand that the Ontario and Nova Scotia institutes and the Manitoba Association are being conducted along parallel lines, and have uniform standards. This being the case, we have sufficient knowledge of the methods of the Ontario Institute to be satisfied that a member or associate of either must be respectable and well qualified.

FIRE INSURANCE NOTES.

On Friday last the directors of the International Association of Fire Engineers of America met in Paterson, N. J. The meeting was called to prepare for the annual convention on October 9th to 12th, in Dallas, Texas. The principal discussion at the convention will concern the fighting of fires in small towns of from five to twenty thousand population.

Wherever the councils of towns and villages see fit to put in the pruning-hook of economy, it ought not to be in necessary appropriations for protecting any place from fire. The "Liberal," of Portage la Prairie, Man., perceives this, and while urging rigid economy in civic expenditure now because of the free spending of the last two or three years in sidewalks, etc., expressly excepts the waterworks. "One of the most necessary propositions before the council," says that journal, "is to put the waterworks system on a fair basis of operation. This may take a year or so and will require the earnest attention of those in charge." Municipal lighting will probably receive attention another year.