

vince, as there was generally elsewhere, the market value of the crops of Ontario only had a yearly average of \$96,125,000. That is, the gross income of the Province for those years amounted to a sum less by \$41,216,000 than it would have been had the average been maintained. It is, however, a remarkable tribute to the thrift and provident habits of the farming population in Ontario, that although they were deriving an average income less than the ordinary by \$10,304,000 from their crops from 1893 to 1896, their deposits in the banks increased by several millions every one of those years. It is true they borrowed very heavily in 1896, when the pinch of hard times had reached its maximum pressure, but, even when that year of severe trial is included in a term of four years of depression, 1893 to 1896, the total loans made to farmers in Ontario were no greater than in the preceding term of 4 years, 1889 to 1892, when better prices for produce prevailed. As an exhibit of financial stability, we doubt if any community ever made as good a record under severe trials as did the agriculturalists of Ontario during the long period of depression which lasted from 1893 to 1896.

The following shows the total value of the live stock on Ontario farms, in 1898, 1894, 1892, and of dairy products.

	1898.	1894.	1892.
Horses,.....	38,659,896	46,245,614	55,812,920
Cattle.....	47,286,254	47,577,587	45,548,475
Sheep.....	6,499,695	8,606,671	8,569,557
Hogs.....	8,720,242	6,909,262	5,479,093
Poultry.....	2,578,136	2,208,518	2,091,450
Value of Cheese made	10,252,240	9,441,247	8,959,939
" Butter made	1,632,234	662,297	570,000

The gross value of the live stock in Ontario in 1898 was \$103,744,223. The value of what was sold or slaughtered in that year was, \$34,050,583. The bees and their outfit in that Province are valued at \$998,049, from which quite a nice income is derived by some farmers. To wind up this budget of statistics we give a few lines to municipal returns and total values of farm properties for the same years as in above table.

	1898	1894	1889
Population.....	2,001,350	1,936,219	1,906,901
Totals Assessment.....	809,184,833	826,179,370	761,905,816
" Taxes.....	12,222,966	12,320,312	10,248,198
Tax rate per head.....	\$6.10	\$6.36	\$5.37
Bonded debt.....	53,577,000	49,724,587	38,988,302
Per cent. of total value...	5.80 per ct.	5.20 per ct.	4.00 per ct.
Value of farm land.....	556,246,569	587,246,117	632,329,433
" buildings.....	210,054,396	204,071,566	192,464,237
Implements.....	52,977,232	51,530,172	51,685,706
Live stock.....	103,744,223	111,547,652	105,731,288
Total farm properties.....	923,022,420	954,395,507	982,210,664

The decline in value of farm lands in Ontario is chiefly owing to the opening up of those in the North West, to which districts the young farmers of that Province were drawn, who otherwise would have been buyers of land near home. It will, however, be noticed that the farmers added \$17,590,159 to the value of their buildings, and \$1,291,426 to that of their implements in the last 10 years, which evidence the possession of larger capital. The ratio of the bonded debt of the whole of the municipalities in Ontario to the total value of farm properties alone in 1898 was

only 5.80 per cent., and to the total assessment 6.62 per cent., an average which leaves a very wide margin between the sum borrowed and the value of the properties by which the debt is secured. Ontario indeed must be acknowledged to be a wealthy, prosperous, thrifty Province, inhabited by two millions of people whose average intelligence, probity and social comforts will favourably compare with those of any community in the world.

THE STANDARD LIFE.

The Standard Life Assurance Company has favoured us with the figures of the Canadian business for the past year, which are of a very satisfactory nature, indicating an increase all along the line. The amount of new paid business has passed the \$2,000,000 mark, the exact figures being \$2,055,697. The net premium income is now \$648,998; total insurance in force in Canada, \$18,110,093, while it paid to Canadian Policyholders, including matured endowments, \$344,374 during the year.

Mr. Ramsay and all those connected with the Company are to be congratulated on this satisfactory result.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT SUPERVISION OF INSURANCE.

The substitution of a national system of supervision of insurance for the separate State Department is a subject likely to re-occupy the attention of the United States Congress this winter. The Platt Bill for the establishment of a division in the Treasury Department "for the regulation of insurance among the several States" is to be discussed, and its supporters intend to press the measure with vigour, and the chances are that our neighbours will give the projected change thorough consideration. Whatever opposition the Platt Bill may encounter in the Senate, where on its previous introduction it received scanty attention, because the war occupied the minds of the members to the exclusion of all other subjects; it seems certain that any change likely to put an end to the frequent disputes between the companies and the insurance commissioners appointed by the numerous States of the Union will be welcomed by the British and Canadian corporations transacting business in the United States. From our point of view, the abolition of an army of commissioners or superintendents, each one of whom exercises almost complete sway over his particular territory, and the substitution of a system of supervision such as we have in the Dominion of Canada, is a change so desirable that the only thing requiring discussion is the best and quickest way of bringing it about. That the important work of exercising judicious supervision over the companies will be more efficiently and intelligently performed by a well-equipped national bureau than by the meddlesome and incompetent inquisitors sometimes appointed as examiners is absolutely certain, and when Congress is made well aware of the national importance of