

## BUILDING ASSOCIATIONS.

## IN GREAT BRITAIN.

We have been favored with a return of the Building Societies in Great Britain for the year 1885, as printed by order of the House of Commons in June ult. Some of which possess much interest, we make excerpts as follows:

In England and Wales there are 2,150 Societies, 1,751 of which report membership to the number of 567,594, being an average of 324 to each Society. Of these Societies 1,936 reported the amount of funds received during the last financial year at £20,800,154, being an average per Society of £10,744. Of these same Societies 1953 made full returns of assets and liabilities as follows:

*Assets.*

Balance due on Mortgage Securities not including prospective Interest.....	£46,955,176
Investments in other Securities and Cash.....	3,601,190
Balance Deficiency 429 Societies.....	118,899
	£50,675,265

*Liabilities.*

To Shareholders.....	£33,479,246
Depositors and other Creditors.....	15,385,503
Balance of unappropriated profit held by 1445 Societies.....	1,810,516
	£50,675,265

## SCOTLAND.

Scotland has 51 Societies, 25 of which give the membership as 5,752, being an average of 230 each. The total receipts of 47 Societies are reported as £271,891 being an average of £5,785 each. The assets and liabilities of 48 Societies as reported are as follows:

*Assets.*

Balance due on Mortgage Securities not including prospective interest.....	£911,014
Other Investments.....	88,065
Deficiency 3 Societies.....	1,054
	£1,000,133

*Liabilities.*

To Shareholders.....	£695,974
Depositors and other Creditors.....	267,921
Unappropriated profits held by 36 Societies.....	38,146
	£1,002,041

## IRELAND.

Ireland shows 42 Societies, of which 35 reported a membership of 10,484, being an average of 300 each, and 40 returned the amount of income for the year at £599,899, being an average of £14,997 each, while 40 make return of assets and liabilities as follows:

*Assets.*

Balance due on Mortgage Securities exclusive of prospective interest.....	£1,027,239
Other Investments.....	98,514
Deficiency of 4 Societies.....	8,425
	£1,134,181

*Liabilities.*

To Shareholders.....	£704,130
Depositors and others.....	377,874
Unappropriated profits.....	52,971
	£1,134,975

The compiler remarking upon these figures says: "Much difficulty has been experienced in ascertaining the particulars required for preparing these returns in consequence of the great variety of forms in which Societies draw up their balance sheets. The whole system of Building Societies' accounts is generally somewhat complicated, and the different Societies vary very much in their mode of stating them." The same complaint has been made in relation to Canadian Societies which have now in nearly every case, adopted the name of Loan Company in lieu of Building Society, as was originally intended by these organizations.

We find classed together, on the same sheet, and under the same headings in the general statement, Loan companies under the Building Society's Act, Loan Companies under the Joint-Stock Company's Act, Mutual Building Societies under the act for terminating Societies, English Companies authorized to transact business in Canada, each of these must necessarily have a variety of transactions, and it would seem almost impossible that books could be so kept by the various companies as to be able to be brought under one set of headings, in all cases. The more compact these statements can be made consistent with due perspicuity the better for all concerned.

The Canadian companies now have a fixed capital stock and reserve fund; they are in fact banks of discount and deposit, without authority to issue bank notes of their own.

A London correspondent says that the people of the English metropolis in a year's time eat 500,000 oxen, 2,000,000 sheep, 200,000 calves, 300,000 swine, 8,000,000 head of fowls, 500,000,000 pounds of fish, 500,000,000 pounds of oysters, 20,000 lobsters, some million tons of canned goods, no end of fruit and other stuff, and 50,000,000 bushels of wheat. It takes 200,000,000 quarts of beer to quench the common thirst. But more than this, they drink 10,000,000 quarts of rum and 50,000,000 quarts of wine. Taking out the water used for sprinkling, cooking, and fountains, and the actual drinking supply is desperately small.

The Fire "Nightrider Street, London, cost the fire offices a pretty penny, and did not reflect much credit on the organization of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Had the latter body been possessed of block plans, issued by Mr. C. E. Goad, of New Broad Street, of the district attacked, they could have easily put an end to the conflagration before it had attained dangerous proportions, but knowing nothing of the *locale* they were altogether unable to utilize their efforts to advantage.

The net loss to the companies is put down as at least £100,000, the chief sufferers being the Sun, Royal, Phoenix, and North British and Mercantile, who are responsible for about half the loss, though nearly a score of other offices are also participants. *Insurance World*, London.

Canadian Millers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co.—Through the courtesy of Secretary Jones, we are in receipt of the eighth annual report of this Canadian mill insuring office, from which we gather the following facts:  
Amount at risk, Dec. 31, 1886..... \$367,500  
Assets, net premium notes included (of which \$5,866.73 is cash on hand) ..... 33,454.95  
Liabilities..... Nil.

The losses, 2 mills only ..... 3,667.02  
Making an exhibit that does credit to the management, and warrants the action, suggested by President Goldie, taken by the stockholders extending the limits of lines upon the better class of mills to \$5,000. At the close of the stockholders' meeting, a meeting of the directors was held, and D. Goldie and Wm. Snider were respectively re-elected President and Vice-President. Mr. Seneca Jones, the very efficient Secretary, was complimented by a re-appointment to the office that he has heretofore filled so well.