

plan has been transacted by six companies, of which four are Canadian and two American.

The total amount of policies taken during the year 1890 was \$7,847,500, which is greater by \$1,466,700 than the amount taken in 1889, which latter was less by \$957,350 than the amount taken in 1888. The net amount in force at the end of the year was \$36,659,616, which shows an increase of \$6,232,500 over that of the previous year.

The amount of insurance terminated by death was \$280,300, and by surrender and lapse \$3,985,675, giving for every \$1,000 of current risk \$7.64 terminated by death and \$108.61 by surrender and lapse.

The total terminations amount to 54.36 per cent. of the amount of new policies. The amounts of termination were distributed as follows:—

	By Death.	By Surrender and Lapse.
Canadian Companies.....	\$137,700	\$1,981,550
American do	142,600	2,004,125
Total.....	\$280,300	\$3,985,675

The total amount paid by members for membership fees, annual dues, assessments, etc., was \$450,507 and the amount paid for death claims was \$275,736.

ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE INSURANCE.

The business of Accident Insurance was transacted by nine Companies, viz: 5 Canadian (2 of which combined it with Life Insurance), 1 American (also combined with Life), and 3 British, one of which combined it with Guarantee business, and 1 with Plate Glass Insurance.

This list of Companies does not differ from that of the previous year.

The total accident premiums received in Canada were \$295,553, insuring an amount of \$40,215,565, and the sum of \$97,339 was paid for claims with \$33,162 claims not settled.

The Guarantee business was conducted by three Companies, one Canadian, one British and one American. This list does not differ from that of 1889.

The premiums received were \$66,540, guaranteeing an amount of \$10,996,950, and the net amount paid for claims was \$24,802, with \$23,581 claims not settled.

The Accident Insurance Company of North America and the Guarantee Company of North America (both companies native) transact business outside of the Dominion, which is not included in the above.

Financial and Statistical.

PROTECTION VERSUS FREE TRADE.

Our occasional correspondent "Esbe," writing from London on "free trade" *versus* "protection," briefly tabulates the result of this investigation into the purchasing power of a dollar in several different countries, giving no figures, however, in support of his conclusions. He claims that in "protective" Germany and the United States, as against "free trade," England wages are in favor of the States, while the purchasing power of a dollar is in favor of England. As between Germany and England, however, wages are in favor of the latter, while the purchasing power of a dollar is equal. "Revenue" Holland and also Belgium, "Esbe" says, both present equality as to wages and purchasing power of money with protective Austria and Germany, while as between Holland and Belgium, both "re-

venue" countries, wages are in favor of the former and the purchasing power of money in favor of the latter. France is set down as "protective" and compared with "revenue" Holland, with the result that wages are equal, but the purchasing power of money in favor of France. From all of which our correspondent concludes that protection does not necessarily mean high prices and free trade low prices, but that the "natural and inevitable law of supply and demand has more to do with the cost of manufactures, the purchasing power of the dollar, and the standard of wages" than protection or its absence. No doubt the fact is that neither free trade nor protection embody the supremest good on the one hand or the greatest evils on the other. As Jack Bunsby says, "The bearings of this observation lays in the application on it."

The number of post offices in Great Britain in 1890 was 17,507, and number of letters and postal cards sent 1,866,500,000; in the United States, number of post offices 60,000, number of letters and cards sent 2,600,000,000; German Empire, number of post offices 24,000, letters and cards sent 1,435,700,000; France, 7,000 post offices, letters and cards sent 746,000,500.

The amount of money in the Government treasury and in circulation in the United States is reported at \$2,100,130,092 for 1891, or \$32.83 per capita of the population. The money in actual circulation is stated at \$1,500,067,555, or \$23.45 per capita. In 1860 the total money was \$14.06 and the circulating money \$13.85 per capita. In 1881 the former was \$27.41 and the latter \$21.71 per capita.

The Census Bureau report on copper production shows that the United States has, since the last census, risen to the first place in the rank of copper-producing countries. The yield for the year 1889 was 226,055,962 pounds. The total copper production shown in the census of 1880 was 56,920,266 pounds. The three States which in the present report lead in copper production, accounting in fact for the whole output within 8,791,658 pounds, are: Montana, 98,222,444 pounds; Michigan, 87,455,675 pounds; and Arizona, 31,586,185 pounds.

A comparison of the total population and density thereof of England and Wales for the last ninety years, by decades, will be interesting, as given by census at the periods named as follows:—

Census	Population	Density per sq. m. sq.
1801.....	8,592,536	153
1811.....	10,164,236	173
1821.....	12,000,236	207
1831.....	13,896,797	239
1841.....	15,914,148	272
1851.....	17,927,609	308
1861.....	20,066,224	345
1871.....	22,712,266	390
1881.....	25,974,439	446
1891.....	29,001,018	498

The total population for the United Kingdom, as found by the 1891 census, is now officially stated at 37,940,283.