

Talking Gaelic Incident.

The absurd exhibition made of himself recently in the Imperial House of Commons by a member who persisted in talking Gaelic to the Speaker, to whom everything said in the House is addressed, has recalled a similar incident which took place in the Nova Scotia Assembly, which is narrated by a correspondent of the "Daily Mail." He writes: "The English language only is there; but, on one occasion, a member asserted his right to address the House in the language he was most familiar with, and spoke in French. An honourable gentleman from another constituency said he, too, came of a people who still had a language, and expressed his views in German. Next a Highland member from Cape Breton, with solemn mien and serious face, arose and addressed the Assembly in Gaelic! No objection whatever was raised to members using any language from Volapuk to Sanskrit, if they wanted to, but the solemn man from Cape Breton capped everything. No language but English has ever since been used in the Legislature of Nova Scotia." The privilege of speaking French in the Parliament of Canada is a constitutional right. Were, however, the principle acknowledged that any member could speak his native tongue, or the tongue of his fatherland, in Parliament, there might be a second edition of the Tower of Babel affair. There would be speeches made in half a dozen languages, if a quorum were in attendance, and it would be necessary to have a relay of Speakers in the chair, and a relay also of reporters, for no one official, and no one set of official reporters could be found to understand what honourable, but foolish members were saying. This, however, would be no loss to the country, for men who desire to try to turn Parliament into a circus have not sense enough to say ought worth reporting.

A Century of Insurance.

Amongst the many subjects of retrospect at the close of the century, few, says the Manchester "Evening Chronicle," are of more interest and importance than those which relate to thrift and insurance. The opening of the 20th century sees, at least, 11 insurance offices working which were in operation when the 19th century began. The oldest survival dates from over 200 years ago, but that one did not undertake life business till very late in the day. The British life offices hold amongst them funds exceeding £25,000,000, and they receive about £30,000,000 annually in premiums. A single company has accumulated funds of \$35,000,000 in half a century. The annual amount received in premiums by British fire insurance companies exceeds £20,000,000. Competition has led to increased public advantages from other systems of insurance. Accident insurance policies are now framed so as to afford better inducements than ever. Even sickness now ranks with accident as a subject of compensation, and such

calamities as blindness or paralysis—though not induced by accident—are amongst the contingencies for which provision is made. Insurance enterprise now does for professional and business men, therefore, what friendly societies and clubs have long done for the working classes. Another point to be noted in connection with personal insurance is the relaxation of territorial restrictions in these days of travel. Nothing has been more remarkable during the past century than the development of thrift amongst the masses; their vast accumulated savings; their provident commercial and industrial enterprise. Most of all we have the one hundred and twenty millions sterling in the Post Office Savings Bank; then there are the twenty-four millions of capital represented by the British friendly societies; the enormous capital represented by co-operative enterprise, and the investments in building societies and house property. But there are other large accumulations of working-class thrift which are not easily associated—enormous though their aggregate must be. These are in local friendly societies, banks, and so forth. The many millions of capital piled up by the masses during the century suggest that a time may come when, by intelligent combination, they should be able to run the country "on their own."

A The Berlin "Record" has unearthed **Stock Exchange** a copy of the Toronto "Leader," for **Relle.** 2nd December, 1865, which contains a copy of the first official weekly list of securities dealt in on the Stock Exchange, Toronto. For publishing this list each week, the "Leader" was paid \$100 yearly. The list appeared as follows:

TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE LIST.
1st December, 1865.

Banks.	Shares paid up.	Dividends last six months.	Quotations.
Upper Canada.....	\$ 50	None.	31½
Toronto.....	100	4 p.c.	None
Ontario (old stock)..	40	4 p.c.	*
Commercial.....	100	3 p.c.	75—76
Gore.....	40	3½ p.c.	Par
Bank of Montreal....	200	4 p.c.	**....
Royal Canadian.....	30	None.	95
Debentures—			
Gov. deb. (12 yrs.)..	..	6 p.c.	99
County deb.	6 p.c.	None
Township deb.....	..	6 p.c.	None
Sundries—			
Toronto City Gas Co.	50	2 p.c. 3 mos.	95
British America Ins. Co....	22.50	45 p.c. 5 p.c. last ½ year.	75—80
Can. Per. Building Society	50	5½ p.c.	114

*Half premium.

**Books closed.

Four out of the seven banks quoted have disappeared. The number of securities quoted on the Toronto Stock Exchange was very limited, and not very choice. Those, however, who got Bank of Montreal at price then ruling, or Toronto Gas Co., and kept them some years, made a considerable profit on the transaction.