

ty. In reference to the Connecticut Life Insurance Company, and the National Life Association, the Commissioner says, "The winding up of the affairs of these two concerns, will, I trust, mark the end of assessment life insurance in this State."

TRANSACTIONS, ACTUARIAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, MAY 18, 19, 1905.—This number contains a report of the written and oral discussion "On the rates of death loss among total abstainers and others." This vexed question was thoroughly threshed out by a number of actuaries. It is one on which much may be said, and said with great force, on both sides. Mr. Van Cise affirmed that, "the statistics he had advanced showed that it is better to be a total abstainer," yet he also said: "There is no doubt in my mind that non-abstainers, outside their drinking habits, are a better class of risks than abstainers." These statements present the question on both aspects, which cause so much controversy. Mr. McClintock took much the same views, he said, "It may be that abstention is best for everybody. I am inclined to think it is myself, but the particular question whether statistics can prove that a very moderate use of alcohol tends to shorten life, is, in my judgment, insoluble."

The question as to the effect of entire abstinence from, and, of a moderate use of alcoholic beverages, is too mixed up with ethical considerations to be absolutely soluble by statistics.

ILLINOIS INSURANCE REPORT 1905. Part I. Fire, Marine and Inland Insurance. The premiums received on fire risks written amounted to \$18,036,636 and on marine risks \$494,379, the total losses on both being \$8,774,520. The expenses are estimated at 33 per cent. The total fire risks written were \$1,412,668,964, of which \$309,507,977 were in foreign companies. The superintendent, Mr. Vredenberg remarks: "A safe and reliable conclusion as to the profits or general results of the business of fire insurance, can only be deduced from the experience of companies covering the entire field of their operations and for a series of years of sufficient length to include conflagrations which are to be expected. Experience shows the falsity of measuring the profits of the business by the results of a single year."

WISCONSIN INSURANCE REPORT 1905. Mr. Host, the Insurance Superintendent, gives the text of a Bill, which was rejected by the Assembly, that "had it been enacted into law, would have aided materially in reducing the average premium rate in fire insurance in that State." The Bill made provision for a thorough enquiry into all fires from an unknown, or suspicious cause. He deplores the lack of wisdom shown by legislators whose more prudent action might reduce the awful demolition of property and ensure lower rates of insurance.

Notes and Items.

AT HOME AND ABROAD.

THE BANK OF BRITISH NORTH AMERICA has opened a branch at Davidson, Sask.

CANADIAN FARMERS ARE FREEHOLDERS.—Of the farmers in Canada about 87 per cent. own their own land. What proportion carry a life assurance policy?

LIGHTNING AND FIRES.—The Stanstead and Sherbrooke Mutual Fire Insurance Co. reports, 35 fires last year, caused by lightning, out of a total of 154 fires. Stoves and store fittings come next, with 25, chimneys 22, matches 5, unknown causes 22.

THE TRAVELERS INSURANCE COMPANY.—The Insurance Commissioner of Connecticut in forwarding his report on the Travelers to President Dunham writes:—

"I take this opportunity to say that the condition of your company as shown by the Examiner's Report must be exceedingly satisfactory to you and your policy-holders, as it certainly is to me."

NEW TITLE FOR BANK OF MONTREAL.—A writer in the "Canadian Gazette," suggests that the London office of the Bank of Montreal be styled, "The Young Lady of Threadneedle St." in contradiction to the "Old Lady," the Bank of England a hundred yards away. The proposed title is not very suitable for the Bank of Montreal is fast approaching its 100th year.

CARELESSNESS, just heedless, reckless, senseless carelessness costs the state about seven million dollars a year. During the first half of 1905 there were 2,577 fires with a loss of \$3,946,190. The losses from adjoining fire, lightning and incendiarism being subtracted, there remain 2,258 fires chargeable to the carelessness of the occupants of the premises.

Who pays the loss? The insurance companies? No, the office of insurance companies is fiduciary, simply. They appraise the danger, tax it and distribute the loss. Every wage-earner pays his share in advance. It being a part of his rent.

The annual fire loss plus the cost of fire departments is equal to 15 per cent. of the total year's product of all the industries of the state. So, every producer gives one and a half hours out of each ten hour day to make good the fire loss.—HY D. DAVIS, Ohio, State Fire Marshal.

COST OF CARELESSNESS.—Please inspect each flue and heater in your dwelling at once, and have defects remedied before cold weather demands artificial heating.

In the chimney look for cracks from settling, or openings from disintegration of the mortar or from a soft brick, the crumbling of which might permit the escape of sparks. Search stovepipes for misfit or parted joints, open seams and rust holes. A stove pipe should not pass perpendicularly into a chimney, nor be run through an area not open to observation. A double sleeve should surround a pipe which passes through a partition and one passing through a summer kitchen roof is too dangerous even if the wood near it is displaced by zinc.

A stove pipe hole should not be plugged with paper nor papered over without a metal plug in it. Cracks in stones should be sought, and woodwork, if within a foot and a half of the stove, should be protected by zinc or tin. Carelessness as to flues alone caused 729 fires in Ohio during last year.

PERSONALS.

MR. J. WM. MACKENZIE, chief agent for Canada of the Maryland Casualty Co., was in Montreal this week to attend a meeting of the Canadian Accident Underwriters' Association. He informs us that the business of his Company is making good progress in Canada.