

from the Cornwall mines, Pennsylvania, fell off in eight years, from 760,000 tons in 1889 to 420,000 tons in 1897. The shipments of ore from the leading New York mines were respectively 738,902 tons in 1888 and 226,431 tons in 1896. Iron mines in New Jersey shipped 482,169 tons in 1889 and 537,066 tons in 1890, but only 239,634 tons in 1897.

While production of pig iron in 1897 was 9,652,680 tons in 1897 and 9,446,304 in 1895, the domestic consumption, as indicated by statistics of production, exports, imports and stocks on hand, was less than in 1895, namely, 9,381,914 tons against 9,628,572 tons.

Nine works made basic open-hearth steel only, last year in the United States; 39 made acid open-hearth steel only and 20 made both acid and basic open-hearth steel.

Black plates for trimming were produced to the extent of 185,387 tons in 1896 and 271,880 tons in 1897; which indicates a large increase in the output of tin plates.

The rail production of 1897 consisted of 1,614,399 tons of Bessemer steel rails rolled by producers of domestic ingots; 30,121 tons of old Bessemer rails re-rolled and rails rolled from purchased blooms; 500 tons of open-hearth steel rails; and 2,872 tons of iron rails.

The maximum production of cut nails was in 1886—8,160,973 kegs. In 1896 the minimum was reached—1,615,870 kegs. To show how largely they have been superseded by wire nails, in 1897 the total was 2,106,799 kegs, an increase of more than 30 per cent. Wire nails reached their maximum in 1897—which was 8,997,245 kegs, an increase of 90 per cent. over 1895. The Massachusetts output of cut nails in 1885, was 654,318 kegs, now that State makes hardly any.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The offerings of butter at the Ontario boards last week amounted to 24,357 boxes, whereas the similar week a year ago 56,853 boxes were offered on board. The smaller movement this year is, however, better noticed in the export shipments. From Montreal in 1897 the shipments up to Oct. 1st. were 1,495,469 boxes, while this year to a similar date they were 1,287,793 boxes. The same course is noticed in the butter trade, shipments falling from 179,054 packages in 1897 to 157,075 packages this year. We append our usual statement:

Boards and Date of meeting.	No. of factories.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price per lb. Cts.
Kingston, Sept. 29.....	..	908		9¼
Perth, Sept. 30.....	..	1,500	1,500	9¼
Chesterville, Sept. 30....	..	885	28	9 3-16
Ottawa, Sept. 30.....	..	1,518	1,428	9¼
Shelburne, Sept. 30.....	..	3,195		9
South Finch, Sept. 30....	..	1,795	324	9½
Cornwall, Oct. 1.....	17	1,451	1,451	9¼
London, Oct. 1.....	..	1,900	250	8 9-16-9
Belleville, Oct. 4.....	12	620		..
Ingersoll, Oct. 4.....	..	1,745		8¾
Madoc, Oct. 4.....	..	1,270		9
Pictou, Oct. 5.....	13	1,120		8¾
Napanee, Oct. 5.....	..	1,260	175	9
Tweed, Oct. 5.....	..	590	370	9
Peterboro, Oct. 5.....	..	4,600	3,400	9

LIFE INSURANCE PARAGRAPHS.

An attorney named M. A. Hall, of Omaha, made a claim on the Canadian assets of the Massachusetts Benefit Life Association, as being the beneficiary named in the policy for \$1,000 of his father, Wm. Hall, of Scarboro. The contention was made that as the beneficiary lived in the United States he was not entitled to rank on the Canadian assets, but the Master decided that he was so entitled.

A subscriber who had seen the advertisement of the unconditional accumulative policy of the Confederation Life Company, asks an explanation of it. This is how we understand it: Suppose a 20-payment life policy for \$10,000 at age 40, after two payments have been made, the party, if unable to complete his contract, has the option of taking a paid-up policy for two-twentieths of the amount, which would be \$1,000, or of having the insurance on \$10,000 extended for one year and ten months. If four premiums have been paid, the beneficiary will be held

insured for five years and nine months longer, or say nine years and nine months in all, or he may take a paid-up policy for \$2,000, payable at death. The policy is called unconditional because the holder of it may live where he chooses or engage in any occupation he pleases; and after a certain time it is incontestable. This is decidedly a liberal and attractive plan of life assurance.

The convention in Toronto last week of some seven hundred agents and assistant superintendents of the Metropolitan Life Assurance Co. was an event of uncommon interest. Mr. Geo. H. Gaston, vice-president of the company, was present from New York, and gave the large gathering some interesting pointers. The cause of industrial insurance must derive benefit from such an important gathering.

The Aetna Life pursues the steady path of progress from year to year, in paying larger and larger cash profits to its fortunate policy-holders as the years go by. For instance, in a rate-table leaflet lying before us it prints the case of a thirty-year endowment for \$5,000 on which the regular premium of \$154.65 has now been reduced, for this year, to only \$43.50. Commencing at age 30 the party would have paid \$4,637 had there been no profits; but his thirty cash dividends reduced those figures to \$2,824.45, or only \$94.15 per annum, and so he gets thirty years of insurance, and a gain on his money of \$2,175.55. For 25 years past this solid old company has never failed to delight those insured in its mutual department with an increased annual dividend. It has assets of \$47,584,967.11, of which \$6,887,873.70 is surplus as regards policy-holders. Also, \$3,699,327 deposited at Ottawa for special security at the back of its Canadian policies.

Something new for intending policy-holders is offered by the British Empire Life Company. A plan has been adopted whereby policies with profits, with uniform premiums during life, can be obtained by payment of four-fifths of the annual premiums quoted. The remaining one-fifth to be allowed to stand as a debt on the policy, at 6 per cent., compound interest, such debt to be gradually liquidated by the application of the cash value of bonuses declared upon the policies during the continuance of the arrangement. The same bonus will be declared upon the policy as if all the premiums had been paid in full from the commencement. This company, which has some \$43,000,000 at risk, has already been doing well for its patrons, having declared a good bonus in 1896. The next bonus is to be allotted at the close of 1899; another to follow in 1901.

A comparative exhibit is made of the business for three successive years of the Federal Life Assurance Company. Its total income went up from \$277,000 in 1895 to \$391,000 in 1897, and its payments to policy-holders increased in the same period from \$115,000 to \$157,000. The total of guarantee capital and assets now stands at \$1,331,448 where in 1895 it was \$1,119,576.

Pointers, i.e., tips as it were, are given by The Insurance Press to female life agents. Here is one of them: "If the man who hesitates is lost and the woman who hesitates is won, you are sure of them both." Here is another: "The will and love of woman is the strongest force on earth, madam. All things are possible to it. According to your belief in life insurance and your womanliness, so shall your success be."

Very remarkable are the figures of the fifty-third annual report of the New York Life. Not because of their size alone but because of the progress and strength they exhibit. The increase of income during six years from 1891 to 1897 was about ten millions, and the increase in dividends to policy-holders during that time was more than a million. There are now 332,958 policy-holders and the company's insurance in force is something over three hundred millions of dollars. The amount paid out by the New York Life during the year 1897 for death losses, endowments and annuities exceeded \$14,000,000, and for dividends and surrender values it paid out \$5,000,000 more. What an army of beneficiaries has been gladdened by this result.

FIRE INSURANCE HAPPENINGS.

The village of Treherne, on the Glenboro branch of the C. P. R. west of Winnipeg, was visited by fire on Thursday of last week, thirteen business places and one dwelling being burned. The loss is between \$30,000 and \$40,000; insurance about \$18,000.