

New Zealand Exports.

Following are the values according to the official returns of New Zealand produce shipped from the several ports during the periods in question, as given by the New Zealand "Trade Review":

	1900-1901.	1896-1900.	Increase + Decrease—
Auckland.....	£ 1,845,723	£ 1,940,251	£-104,528
Wellington.....	1,916,211	2,374,302	-458,091
Napier.....	823,666	945,872	-122,206
Other N. Island Ports..	1,431,750	1,454,261	-22,511
Lyttelton.....	2,435,647	2,695,915	-259,368
Dunedin, Bluff, etc....	3,213,485	3,169,162	+ 44,323
Other S. Island P. rts..	893,356	887,120	+ 6,236
Total North Island....	6,907,350	6,714,686	-192,664
Total South Island....	6,548,488	6,751,297	-202,809
Total Colony.....	12,576,642*	13,471,966*	-895,324

* Including value of Parcels Post.

A decrease is shown in the figures for the whole colony, for each of the islands, and for a majority of the ports. The reduction is more than accounted for by the falling off of nearly £1,100,000 in wool alone. A recent census shows that 66.8 per cent. of New Zealanders were born in the colony, which a Montrealer from there declares is even more loyal than Canada.

Two More Unfortunate Fraternalists.

The Masonic Mutual Benefit Association of New Haven, Conn., having failed, some of its friends have issued a circular suggesting that the organizations be kept up.

What prospect there is of redeeming the affair may be judged by the statement that, the funds amount to about \$9,000 to pay claims of over \$80,000, so the policyholders will get about 10 per cent. of their claims when the Association is wound up. The Protected Knights of America, Miss., has suspended, and suit has been entered against the officers.

U. S. Life Business, 1901.

According to a table compiled by the "Standard" the estimated business of 43 U. S. life assurance companies in 1901 amounted to \$1,336,950,000. The net increase over 1900 was \$108,924,000. There were 13 companies who did less business than in 1900, the aggregate of their decreases being \$62,177,000. The total amount of the estimated business of the four largest companies was \$737,100,000, the aggregate of their increases over 1900 being \$54,666,000.

Iron Trade Indications.

There are slight indications of less activity in the iron trade. The number of furnaces in blast have been reduced from 266 on Dec. 1, 1901, to 264. These, however, are 33 more than were in operation a year ago. In Jan., 1901, the furnace capacity was 250,351 tons per week; at present it is 298,400 tons per week. There does not seem, however, to be any anticipation of a falling off in consumption, so the iron trade barometer may be read as indicating "Set Fair."

PHOENIX AND ATLAS AMALGAMATION OFF.

Mr. M. C. Hinshaw, Branch Manager for Canada of the Atlas Assurance Company, has requested us to state, and it gives us a great deal of pleasure to do so, that the proposed Phoenix and Atlas amalgamation has fallen through, and that any suggestion made as to an Act of Parliament been procured, to close the deal, is without a shadow of foundation.

THE TRAVELLERS INSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual statement of the Travelers' Insurance Company just published, a copy of which appears in this issue, continues the record of development in volume of business and of financial strength. Since the company passed the million dollar mark in 1900 for "life insurance in force," there has been an advance from that point up to \$114,691,242. The Travellers' is evidently cutting a wide swathe in the field open to insurance business. The total assets at close of 1901 were \$33,813,055, which shows a gain of \$2,884,724. The Reserve in the Life department, calculated on a basis of 3½ per cent., amounts to \$24,230,311, which is a substantial increase over previous year, and the Reserve in the accident department is \$1,712,217, which also shows enlargement. The increase in these reserves has caused an addition to the total liabilities, the amount of which is \$28,807,741, against \$26,385,204 at end of 1900, the year's increase being \$2,422,537. The increase of liabilities is less by \$462,187 than the increase in assets. When the amount of the total liabilities, \$28,807,741, is deducted from the total assets, \$33,813,055, there is a balance left of \$5,005,314 as 'Excess Security to Policyholders.' The Travelers' last year returned \$1,898,188 to policyholders under its "instalment plan at commuted value" and \$1,542,132 in the accident department.

The total payments to its policyholders since 1864 amounts to \$46,083,706. The number of accident claims paid last year was 17,409. We miss the name of the late president, the veteran, Mr. Batterson, who is worthily succeeded by Mr. Sylvester C. Dunham. The 38th annual statement, for 1901, evidences the continued popularity and strength of the Travelers', the interests of which in this city are well looked after and promoted by the chief agent, Mr. Fred F. Parkins.

NATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO., OF CANADA.—During the year 1901 the Company issued policies to the amount of \$1,400,755, and had assurances in force at 31st Dec. last amounting to \$2,580,745, giving an annual premium income of \$92,029, being the result of 2 years and 5 months' business.