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"Insurance Society and Finance Chronicle."

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We propose for the future to enlarge what we may call the sphere of usefulness of this Journal. Life and Fire Insurance are so intimately connected with Finance in its different branches, that it is difficult, if not impossible, to entirely separate them. It is our intention to in no way reduce the amount of space and thought devoted to insurance interests pure and simple, but to increase the size of the paper and devote the additional space chiefly to Financial matters. We promise our readers that they will lose nothing, while they will gain much, for we feel sure that they will find the added information interesting and valuable. This number contains thirty six pages.

We propose to continue to be what we may fairly claim to be The Insurance Journal of the Dominion, and by enlarging our space and reaching a larger body of readers we are directly benefiting all insurance interests.

We wish our readers, one and all,

A Happy and prosperous New Year!

1885.

The year that has just passed has marked a steady growth in almost all the branches of Insurance. We are still in the depths of a severe commercial depression which has unfavorably affected all branches of trade, and Insurance is one of these which suffers first and most heavily. When this is borne in mind the insurance fraternity have good cause to congratulate themselves on the position they find themselves in on the first day of January, 1886.

Life Assurance has made rapid progress during the year. We think we are safe in saying that, on the whole, a considerably larger new business has been secured than during 1884. The year has been marked by the re-entrance to Canada of the Mutual Life of New York. The increased competition from American companies does not seem, however, to have injuriously affected our Home companies which still secure their full share of the new business. The result is that by means of all the different agencies now at work, the untold blessings of life assurance are being much more extended than formerly.

The most noteworthy point in connection with the Fire business has been the completion of the tariff arrangements. The benefits of this are only beginning to be properly felt, and it is expected that the forthcoming yearly accounts will show an improved state of affairs in many cases. If an era of better times has dawned on the fire companies, as we think is the case, it will be a result to be viewed with unalloyed satisfaction.

In Inland Marine Insurance a fair profit has been the result of the year's operations.

In Accident Insurance the competition is yearly becoming keener. It has taken the shape of cutting rates. When we compare the premiums charged now with those charged even five years ago, the difference is striking. Permits for Ocean travel have been abolished, and the ordinary premiums for some risks reduced by even one-third. Formerly the business was very profitable, if enough of it could be secured, but the profit in it is now but small.

SCHEDULE RATING.

It is a pity there is so much random talking with respect to fire insurance. It was stated the other day that Mr. Alfred Perry had been appointed a rating officer for the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Fire Insurance Association, but this is incorrect, he having been made simply Inspector, an important post for which we believe no one in Montreal is more competent; but Mr. Perry's duties will consist in examining the construction of various special hazards together with the fire appliances in connection with them, and he will then hand in his report to a committee appointed by the association, who will rate the risks accordingly.