

keeps coming to the front, we cannot do better than tabulate this year again the salient features in the business of the institution as compared with previous years:

| Year | 1878. | 1879. | 1880. | 1881. |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Policies acpt'd. | . 116 | 235 | ::17 | 367 |
| New business. | 156,250 | - 294,834 | 468,000 | 546,154 |
| Death losses | 12,048 | 6,300 | 5,895 | 7.423 |
| Assets | 141,703 | -153,355 | 172,435 | 187,635 |
| Lightlities | 111,899 | 117,404 | 136,603 | 142,227 |
| Pol. in force | 1,082 | . 1,104 | 1,139 | 1,265 |
| A mount of do | 1,221,024 | 1,265,855 | 1,361,902 | 1,571,598 |
| Revenue | 40,554 | 43,027 | 45,850 | 50,777 |
| Dishursements. | 24,610 | 31,375 | 26,779 | |
| Gov't deposit | 55,643 | 77,000 | 90,788 | 161,000 |

This is a record to which the Directorate and the Management can point with satisfaction, and there can be little doubt that, with the prosperity which is felt in nearly every department of business, the company will show as marked an improvement in the future as it has in the past. Legitimate life insurance companies have much to contend with in the plausible theories set forth by new-fangled "mutunt aid " concerns, but as there are hosts of people who cannot be taught except by experience, the result must eventually redound to the benefit of the regularly established institutions, which bind themselves no less to aid those whom it may concern, besides giving them ample security in the shape of Government deposits that it will be forthcoming when required. To avoid being confounded with such concerns, more than one life insurance company has obtained permission of late to omit the word "Mutual" from their chartered title. The large increase in the Guarantee Fund of the Life Association of Canada is a new feature, and of paramount importance to the public, moreover since its character has with interest by intending insurers and the public at large.

SO-CALLED "bargains" in dry goods will be common during the approaching few weeks, owing to the recent fire; and some retail merchants will probably unload their shelves by simply scorching and soaking some packages of goods to give them the appearance of being part of the damaged stocks from the fire of Tuesday last in this city.

Owing to the constant change in fashion and colors it has become absolutely necessary for the trade to provide means to prevent loss by having large stocks of goods left on hand that will not sell on account of color, and which if kept over another year will possibly be out of style as well as of the wrong shade. The British American Dyeing Co, has, at an outlay of over \$40,000, fitted up a complete factory for the re-dyeing of piece goods of all kinds, silk, ribbons, laces, velvets, gauzes, cloths, tweeds, wool and unions, dress goods, etc. All kinds of dry goods, milliners' goods, trimmings, etc., are equally successfully treated Not only are they doing a large trade in freshening bad colors and shop worn goods, but are constantly handling newly imported goods where special colors are required or run short of. As an evidence of merit they received one Gold and two Brouze Medals at the Montreal, Toronto and London Exhibitions last Fall, besides Diplomas.

THE RECENT FIRE .- The mest disastrons fire that has occurred in Montreal for several years was that of Tuesday night in the four-storey block of stores on Victoria square and Craig street, owned by Mr. Duncan Melntyre of the houses by Messrs. McIntyre, French & Co., Robt. Miller, Sons & Co., S. Greenskields, Sons & Co., and by Mr. W. Clendinneng as a retail branch of his business. The fire originated in one of the upper flats of Messrs. Miller's premises about 10.30, and rapidly ascended to the roof, breaking through the thin partition wall into the upper storeys of the Messrs. Greenshields' warehouse. The fire brigade bravely battled with the devouring element, but with greatly inadequate force of water, for more than three hours before it was subdued, the streams from the engines in the street merely washing the double windows and outer walls of the block, or, when strong enough, falling in spray upon the cornices or on the edge of the roof, where they were immediately converted into vapor. The fire continued to ruge inside the upper flats fed with boxes of fancy dry goods, stationery, &c., and it appeared about twelve o'clock as though the entire premises were doomed to destruction. Several streams were brought to bear upon the fire from the roof of Henry J. Shaw's warehouse, and these, with a persistent nozzle playing through a break in the upper corner window, succeeded in drowning out the element about 2 in the morning. Some effectual assistance was rendered from within the buildings also, and it may be remarked that earlier determined efforts from that direction would have accomplished a great deal more. Had the platform of 3 to 4 feet high from which the hose at the corner was played been eight or ten times higher, there would have been less difficulty in directing the stream