

although the companies are patronized more than ever before. State insurance departments, State laws, insurance journals, and essays on life insurance, are multiplying, and the companies being subjected by reason of these things to large expenses, and are reporting year by year to this State and to that, larger amounts of agency balances and office premiums uncollected, and premium notes, deferred premiums maturing, agency balances, interest accrued, furniture supplies, &c., all of which are unrealized, but are claimed and allowed in the account of assets, and they amount (in 32 agency companies in Conn.) to \$37,146,370." Mr. Noyes evidently believes in "Cash on hand."

The active and often unscrupulous competition of young life companies must be credited with one good result; it has compelled many of the older companies to reform their practice more in accordance with the principles of equity. Among the grievances of early practice was the long period during which dividends were forborne. No wonder a company could boast of paying 40 per cent., when it did not commence to pay till it had compounded three, four or five annual premiums, and then declared 40 per cent. on the last year's business, thus practically cheating the assured out of three or four dividends. But most of the companies have been compelled to a more liberal course, annual dividends on the contribution plan. The United States Life, organized twenty years ago, and always somewhat old foggy in its style—is a late example of this pressure. Its profits were declared triennially, payable with the policy when it became a claim. But it woke up last winter, got its charter amended, and will henceforth allow the dividends; 1, towards the payments of loans, if any; 2, towards the payment of premium; 3, towards the purchase of additional insurance; 4, in cash to the policy holder. If it had also abandoned its inequitable per centage plan of division, it would have made another important step in the right direction.

Superintendent Miller, following the example of the departments of Ohio, California, New Hampshire and Illinois, has directed the District Attorney to prosecute the three co-operative swindles that have hung out shingles in this city. We may soon expect to hear that the office furniture of the Mutual Guarantee, the United States Co-operative, and the Commonwealth Co-operative, is for sale.

What a pleasant and exhilarating task, with the thermometer at 90° must be that of Mr. R. N. Southwick, who on behalf of the superintendent, is making a personal investigation into the affairs of the several fire companies. Shrewd people have come to have very little confidence in these special investigations. There is generally, as in the case of Mr. Miller's recent special investigation into the affairs of the Mutual Life, too much whitewash about them. And it is so easy to accept the explanations of officers. Besides, it is the more popular course for the Department.

We have now fairly carried the war of competition into Africa, or rather England. Our underwriters and life officers have concluded, that if five respectable English offices can do a paying business on this side, there are also American companies worthy of English confidence. The Home fire, with its \$2,500,000 capital, has gone over, as has also the Mutual Benefit Life, the North America, and the New York Life. The Germania Life, has been successfully operating for some time on the continent.

Have you any good life insurance agents in Ontario that are in pursuit of high commissions? Send them to this city. "The great demand of the age," so far as life companies are concerned, is good agents. The insurance journals and daily papers abound with notices to those gentry of the "most liberal terms guaranteed." The officers are nothing—the agents everything. Well, when was it that a corps of efficient agents was not the cause and only means of a company's success.

The agent is the main-spring in the movement—he is the life-blood of a company. But the companies multiply so fast that a sufficient supply of experienced agents can not be had. An established office is not likely to let its tried agents withdraw if the result can be prevented, and to an old agent who has been identified with a company of not evil reputation, the task of trying to work up business for a new concern with new and inexperienced officers, is always disagreeable—generally disheartening to the agent.

After being much tossed about by sea and land, the Peabody Life has opened its doors for business, with (it is said) 500 applications on its books. W. K. Thorn, son-in-law of Commodore Vanderbilt, has succeeded Mr. Sickles as President. Mr. Jas. Pool, President of the American National Bank, has gone on the direction, so that it is much strengthened. Col. H. H. Hadley, Vice-President, and the inspiring spirit of the organization, will now move forward to systematic and successful work.

The writer happens to know, from private sources, that the Ben Franklin Life is meeting with extraordinary success. A peculiar feature of this company is its system of life endowment tables, upon which policies are issued by monthly payments of five or three dollars. There are a large class in every community who are employed on salaries which, in many cases, are payable weekly or monthly, and who rarely, if ever, accumulate sufficient property to meet the annual premium for any considerable amount at once, but who can make a small monthly payment after their necessary expenses have been met, and thus secure their dependents against that destitution in which nearly all men of their class leave their families after their decease. The Ben Franklin scheme unites the blessings of life insurance with the small deposit savings banks. It is greatly to be desired that the companies would more generally endeavor to bring the blessings of life insurance within the means of the industrial and small salaried classes. This is done to a large extent in England, but the field has scarcely been touched here. If the Ben Franklin's efforts to open it up, shall prove successful, the company will have conferred an inestimable favor upon the whole community.

THE CROPS.

The following is a continuation of the crop reports furnished by Messrs. Dun, Wiman & Co.:

Monckton, Perth Co.—Heavy crops of hay, but owing to the wet weather, considerably damaged. Fall wheat was winter-killed. Spring crops will be an average; root crops of all descriptions, first-class.

Gorrie, Huron Co.—Crops of all kinds look well, if they can be saved.

Corunna, Lambton Co.—Crops are all good here, with the exception of hay, which has been a good deal spoiled with the wet.

Howard, Kent Co.—Wheat is about a two-third crop, compared with 1869; it is a good deal damaged by rains. Barley is an average crop, but a bad color, and damaged by wet. Oats are a good crop, but there will be a good deal lost in harvesting, being beaten down with rain.

Troy, Wentworth Co.—Hay is a good average crop. Fall wheat is not heavy, but a fine sample; spring wheat, only middling; peas, good; oats, very heavy crop; potatoes look well and sound;

Rondeau.—Fall wheat is damaged considerably by rain, but otherwise the crops are good.

Winchelsea.—The crops are good, with the exception of fall wheat which is a failure. The weather has been very unfavorable since haying commenced.

Peel Township, Wellington Co.—Fall wheat is thin on the ground, from the severity of last winter. Hay is a full average. Peas are far beyond the average in quantity and quality; oats sown

early never looked better; barley, where good, is very good.

Port Elgin.—A good deal of the fall wheat in this section was winter-killed, and a large portion was ploughed up this spring and sown with spring wheat, oats and peas, which promise to be a good crop, and fully up to the average.

Fullarton.—Fall wheat was badly winter-killed. Spring wheat will be an average crop. Barley, oats, and peas were never better.

Rothsay.—The usual breadth of spring wheat was sown, and will probably average about 20 bushels to the acre. Fall wheat (not much sown) was considerably winter-killed; average 25 bushels to the acre. Oats (more than usual sown) average from 40 to 50 bushels per acre. Barley is a good crop, and will average about 40 bushels per acre. Peas (about the usual quantity sown) average 40 to 50 bushels per acre.

Delaware, Middlesex Co.—The crops here were a good deal damaged by rain. Most of the wheat is a fair sample, and will yield from 10 to 20 bushels per acre; peas are damaged by the wet, and will be about half a crop; oats are very good; barley is very good; hay is a good crop, but about a third of it was saved in bad order. Barley was damaged by wet, and is not a bright sample.

Washington, Oxford Co.—Crops, as a general thing, except fall wheat, are good in this locality.

Ainleyville, Huron Co.—The hay crop has been much damaged by rain, but the quantity is large. The wheat crop has also been very much damaged, and the prospects are poor, but if the weather keeps fine, they may improve very much. Barley is going to be a failure; oats and peas are looking remarkably well. Root crops all promise well.

Newark Oxford Co.—Fall wheat crop very poor; spring crops good, and promise an average yield.

Bayfield, Huron Co.—The hay crop was middling, but it was indifferently saved, owing to so much wet weather and heat. The fall wheat is light; there was much less than usual sown last season, and what is of it is partly injured by the wet. The spring grains generally look well.

Sparta, Elgin Co.—Wheat is not more than half a crop; a good deal is injured by the rain, and the late wheat seems grown. Barley is light and injured by rain; peas are very much injured by rain, but they will be a good sample, though the crop is short, and the straw is injured by mildew; oats are looking well; corn also on uplands. We have had good weather since Friday last, and if the weather proves good this week, most of the wheat and barley will be in barn. Wheat will be a poor sample, on account of so much wet weather.

Bobcaygeon.—Fall wheat is greatly winter-killed, but the berry is plump and good and will average about 12 or 15 bushels per acre. Early sown spring wheat is very light; later sown is doing well and promises an average crop. Oats, peas and barley are very good. Root crops are doing well and will be a good yield if nothing happens to injure them.

Ballantyne.—The fall wheat has been a failure, but the spring crops are looking very well, and likely to yield good crops. Money has been rather scarce this summer on account of the low prices last winter.

Honeywood, Simcoe Co.—Crops are good and prospects never were better in these parts.

Hampton.—Crops in this section will be fair. Wheat nearly an average crop. Barley an average crop. Oats, very heavy crop. Rye, not much sown. Hay has been a fair crop. Grain will be pretty well saved.

Ayr, Ont.—Fall wheat thin on the ground, but a good sample and well filled, and will average from 16 to 20 bushels per acre. Spring wheat a light crop; not much sown. Barley, not so heavy as was anticipated, nor of so good a quality. Oats, a heavy crop. Peas, a good crop. Potatoes, a good crop. Fruit of all kinds a plentiful crop.

Burgoyne, Bruce County.—Hay is about an average crop. Fall wheat is deficient in quantity