commercial pursuits, and that the tendency of to-day, is to seize upon any opportunity presented, or to make an opportunity if one does not offer, for realizing money by a *coup*, as opposed to the old, steady fashion of assiduous attention to one's legitimate business.

UNION MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual report of this Company, which has just reached us, is of more than usual interest just now, because it not only shows the present satisfactory financial condition of the Company, but gives, in addition, an actuarial and mortuary record. These reports are worthy of careful analysis, did our space permit, but we can only make brief reference to some of the leading features in the general statements. It appears that an entire re-valuation of the Company's assets has been made during the year by competent men sworn to their duty. This has resulted in a reduction of values amounting to $137,278, and is in keeping with the policy adopted in 1876 when $536,387, and in 1877 $83,275 were written off for depreciation. Notwithstanding these reductions, the net surplus estimated on the Massachusetts standard of 4 per cent. is $154,478, or by the rate adopted in this country (4½ per cent.) the surplus would be $548,497. These figures are in excess of all contingent claims or pending contracts. There is one feature in the payment of death losses which is deserving of special notice, and forms one of the strongest arguments in favor of life assurance: that is, during the past five years the sum of $1,668,042 was paid policy-holders in excess of the amount received from them; or, in other words, every dollar they paid yielded afterwards nearly three dollars. Among policy holders and their representatives no less than $2,022,934 were disbursed. This is the largest sum ever distributed by this Company in any one year, the age of the oldest of its 15,775 policies being twenty-eight years. The total reserve liability on these is $6,603,552. A large reduction has taken place in the expenditure of the Company last year, which was 17.9 per cent. of the income against 31.1 per cent. in 1876.

Dominion Bank.—The operations of this bank have been, since its inception, carried on with more than ordinary care. The directors now show less regard for large profits for shareholders than for the security of their investments. By placing a sum nearly equal to their reserve in Government securities, they have prepared themselves for emergencies that may arise, though in doing so they have curtailed their earning power. This course gives a definite answer in the case of this Bank at any rate to a question which has been lately raised, viz.: whether banks really possess the reserve set forth in their statements. The report which we publish in another column cannot but be considered a very satisfactory one. A dividend of eight per cent has been paid to the shareholders and the reserve fund has been increased by $20,000, making it now $330,000, or equal to 34 per cent. of the paid capital. The business of the bank in amount is much the same as last year, the most noticeable change being an increase of $62,500 in the amount of deposits not bearing interest. A sum of $30,387 is properly placed among the liabilities as a reserve for unearned interest. The bank now occupies its new and handsome premises.

DELUSIVE LIFE INSURANCE.

SECOND ARTICLE.

Speaking of unjust assessments, we do not want a better illustration of them than is afforded in the scale of the newly-fledged co-operative yclept Provident Association of America. It is very evident the individual who drew its plans had some faint glimmering that it was not right to assess the youth of 16 and his hoary-headed grandfather of 60, both exactly alike. Therefore he provides that persons of 16 to 25 years of age shall pay 38 cents at the death of each member, and those joining between the ages of 53 and 60 inclusive, shall pay 96 cents on the death of each member. Regular life insurance companies, with millions of dollars to back them, dare not open their doors to men of sixty without having about five times the premium they are willing to accept from persons of 16 to 20 years of age. One of the strongest American companies charges, as we notice by a rate table before us, $55.64 at the age of 60, and only $11.09 at the age of 20, for $1,000 of insurance. But here comes an unknown and untried association, with no more capital than experience, and with no actuary to guide it, and undertakes to insure for half the price. That is: 96 cents are only two and a half times 38 cents. The advertising columns of this journal are not open to any association whose managers so poorly comprehend the mere rudiments of the business they assume to engage in, even though, as in this case, some of them are gentlemen of excellent business and social standing who would not knowingly be found leading their fellow citizens astray. For their information we quote the following statement from the tables of an eminent actuary

On another point, a remark or two. We find it actually represented, in one edition of the P. A. circulars, that a man of 45 will secure $500.00 at death by an assessment of $3.92 annually! In a subsequent issue, the admission is made that it may, sometime, many years hence, cost as much as $4.87 annually! In other words, what the strongest company will not undertake to do for less than from $13 to $15 a year, this wonderfully provident association is to supply for less than $5.00. In support of the idea that this can be done, a year's experience of the Mutual Life of New York is quoted; but there is a world of difference between the two institutions. The Mutual has some eighty millions of assets with which to attract the attention of the best lives; and though an old company in years, it is really a very young company in membership, no less than 56,850 new policies having been issued in the past five years, while the total is 91,553. That the experience of that company is something quite exceptional, and not to be counted upon as certain to be attained by the best laid plans, will be seen by the following statement of average cost of deaths, per $1,000, in that and five other American companies of nearly the same age, (none of which transact new business in Canada) during the past nine years. We quote the Massachusetts reports:—

	5 years ending 1873.	5 years ending 1877.
Mutual Life......	$ 9.10	$10.60
Knickerbocker ...	15.30	24 00
Mutual Benefit ...	12.60	14.30
Conn. Mutual	11.60	13.33
United States	13.80	13.70
Germania	13.10	15.70
Average of five last	13 50	16.20

It must be borne in mind that these figures represent the bare mortality, without expenes, or reserves. It has cost these companies a great deal to provide the means of making so good a selection of lives, and of keeping up a constant inflow of healthy material. It cannot be done for nothing, nor at $1 per head for medical examinations.

Now let us see what the mortality among co-operative societies, of the class to which the P. A. belongs, was in 1877. The Pennsylvania Reports furnish the statistics, and here are some of them:

Name.	Membership.	Deaths cost per $1000.
Franklin Mutual	141	$ 21.30
Odd Fellows	155	12.60
Home Mutual	102	39.90
Monroe Co-operative	162	29.85
Mutual, Pottsville ..	83	38.40
Odd Fellows' Mutual	1,393	12.40
Temperance "	2,305	12.60
United Brethren	14,237	18.40
Masonic Relief	1,133	16.50

There are seven others in Pennsylvania, with very small membership, and likely soon to disappear, two of which had no deaths, but counting them all in, the average was $16.30; and the fact that each year's age added to every member gives a heavier mortality is well illustrated in the united average mortality of these societies for the past four years.

	At risk.	Cost.
During 1874, each	$1,000	$ 9.10
" 1875, "	1,000	11.80.
" 1876, "	1,000	12.40.
" 1877, "	1,000	16.30.

We have not yet obtained full information as to the mortality of these associations during 1878, but we observe that the Franklin Mutual has disappeared, and that four new ones have