

The Boston Protective Department gives the fire statistics in that city for 10 years as follows: number of fires, 7,442; total fire loss \$14,657,095; average loss per fire, \$1,969.51.

It is currently stated that the Mutual Life of New York is about to erect a thirteen-story building adjoining its present home office building, a portion to be for its own use and the rest for first class tenants.

Both of the American prudential insurance companies, the Metropolitan and the Prudential, have announced that paid up insurance will be granted hereafter to policyholders who keep up their policies for five years.

The total funds deposited with the insurance department of the State of New York on January 1, 1892, by the various fire insurance companies of foreign countries was \$7,027,166, and by nine New York companies (special reserve fund) \$2,395,000.

At the annual Meeting of the Sun Life of this city last week a large number of agents from all parts of the Dominion were present. The company is fortunate in its representatives, who are a superior class of men and would be a credit to any company.

The Winnipeg city council are seeking authority from the Legislature to tax fire and life insurance companies \$200 each, and guarantee and accident companies \$50 each. It is certainly to be hoped that no such additional burdens will be said upon the beneficent business of insurance.

For some time past the Hartford Steam Boiler Insurance and Inspection company has collected and published statistics of boiler explosions in the United States annually, and has reported the number for 1891 at 257. The totals for thirteen years are given at 2,416, being an average of 186 annually.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters of the United States has addressed a communication to President Harrison, calling attention to the enormous fire waste of the country for a series of years, enforced by ample statistics, and asking him to call the attention of Congress to the matter by a special message.

Manager Litchfield of the Lancashire has announced the withdrawal of that company from Massachusetts, owing to the injustice of the laws of that State which require the charging of all deposits in other States as a liability, though in reality assets—a fact with which we have heretofore made our readers acquainted.

In Minnesota, for 1891, the American stock fire insurance companies received for premiums \$2,739,484, and incurred losses amounting to \$2,183,104, or 79 per cent. The average premium rate was \$1.39. The foreign companies received for premiums \$747,536, and incurred losses of \$621,520, or 83 per cent. The average premium rate was \$1.70.

It will be remembered that not very long since the Alliance of London reinsured a good share of the business of the Union of San Francisco, and, presumably, acquired the control of the company's stock, though the Union nominally continues to do business. Its report to the New York department for 1891 showed a surplus; but as about \$135,000 paid the Alliance for reinsurance was included in its "cash in bank," the department finds an impairment, which will probably have to be made up.

"Houston's Pocket Manual," published by J. D. Houston, Cornwall, Ont., is a neatly printed and bound pocket manual of 36 pages, giving the principal tables of rates used by the life companies doing business in Canada. Agents will doubtless find it convenient to have these tables collected under one cover. The price is a dollar.

The fire loss for February in Canada and the United States was \$11,914,000, against \$9,226,000 in February, 1891, and \$7,387,025 in 1890. January and February of this year, combined, gave a total loss of \$24,478,000, compared with \$20,456,500 for these two months in 1891. There is a growing conviction among underwriters that electric wires are responsible for a good many fires.

The Southeastern Tariff Association, which recently met in Washington, adopted the following important resolution:—

Resolved, That as our tariff is based upon an insurance as to values of seventy-five per cent., therefore an extra charge of twenty-five cents per hundred be added to the rate unless the seventy-five per cent. co-insurance clause is inserted in policies covering mercantile risks, provided this shall not apply to towns coming under the operation of the three-fourths clause.

A new fire extinguishing compound, called "vulite," is attracting some attention across the water. Experiments at Manchester, according to the *Insurance News*, were very favorable. Among other things done a fire set in a wooden structure, consisting of a mass of staves saturated with paraffine oil, was speedily extinguished by a few strokes of a thirty-gallon engine containing the fluid.

The Travelers Insurance Company of Hartford has transferred \$400,000 from its surplus to its capital stock making the cash capital \$1,000,000. When the company began business in 1864 it had a paid-up capital of \$400,000. In each of the years 1865 and 1875 it added \$100,000 to the capital from surplus, and now makes the addition above named. Hereafter dividends on stock are to be paid quarterly.

The Prudential Insurance Company of England reports total premium receipts upon industrial business for 1891 at \$18,441,690, against \$17,589,625 for 1890. The total number of policies in force is 9,617,484, and the average amount \$45 each; average duration 6¾ years. In its ordinary life branch the company issued 58,118 policies for \$29,662,465. The assets now amount to \$73,118,135.

In our last issue our Toronto correspondent, in the way of news, referred to the engagement of Mr. F. Hawarth, formerly with the London Guarantee & Accident Company, by the Manufacturers' Accident Company, and incidentally remarked in the same connection that Manager McCord of the former company had been unable, on account of illness, to attend to business, and was arranging for a helping partner. We are surprised to learn, through Mr. McCord's solicitors, that the reference cited has been construed by that gentleman as emanating from the Manufacturers', and for "the purpose of injuring Mr. McCord and his company." No one in any way connected with the Manufacturers' had anything to do with the statement, and not the remotest intention on the part of this journal or its correspondent existed to injure either Mr. McCord or his company. That Mr. McCord has been ill is well known, and indeed so stated in the letter of his solicitors, though we are glad to learn he is now able to personally attend to business. It was hardly necessary to approach us on a matter of this kind through the formal communication of Mr. McCord's solicitors.