

stocks; nearly four millions in loans on bonds and stocks; over eight millions in cash; over three millions of rent and interest due and accrued, etc. Against these assets are to be placed liabilities of \$95,503,000, which includes the reserve on all existing policies calculated at four per cent. The company has, according to its actuaries, Messrs. Phillips and Van Cise, an undivided surplus of \$23,740,000, which is entirely adequate to reassure the most exacting enquirer as to the responsibility of this great company. The Equitable paid, during 1890, death claims and matured endowments to the amount of \$8,817,000, as well as dividends, annuities and surrendered values, \$4,438,000, making total payments to policyholders in one year more than thirteen millions of dollars. In enterprise, liberality of dealing, variety of plans offered, the Equitable well maintains its high reputation.

INSURANCE NOTES.

According to the *American Miller* there were 315 fires among the flour, feed, hominy and grist mills in the United States and Canada in 1890, entailing a property loss of \$4,252,100, and an insurance loss of \$1,648,215. Fifty-seven of these were grist and saw mills combined, and ten of the mills destroyed were reported as being idle at the time.

The Ontario Association of Underwriters, which met and deliberated last week in Toronto, elected officers as follows: President, John Beattie, Fergus; vice-president, G. J. Doyle, Owen Sound; secretary - treasurer, Hugh Black, Rockwood. Executive Committee—D. C. Macdonald, London; C. Davidson, Guelph; J. I. Hobson, Guelph; Charles Paekard, Stratford, and William Turnbull, Brantford. Auditors—Seneca Jones, Hamilton, and Mr. Smith, London. With respect to the use of steam threshers on farms, the change asked to be inserted in the statutory clause was that steam threshers be placed not less than 100 feet from barns, stacks, etc.

The Homans' plan of life assurance, which means a scale of naturally increasing premiums, as opposed to the old-fashioned, high, early premium, receives a strong enconium from Mr. Hine in the *Insurance Monitor* for March. Says that authority: "From nothing, Mr. Homans has worked his company up to an income exceeding \$1,500,000 per annum. He is now paying policy-holders more than a million per year, and he has managed his business so well that half his entire asset is surplus. In fact, with its capital, the company can show \$2.38 for each dollar of net liability, a financial condition that ought to be satisfactory to the most fastidious. No one can examine the statement of the Provident Savings without being compelled to recognize that the Homans' plan as worked by Homans is to-day a notable success."

The beneficiary of a benevolent certificate cannot recover back the assessments he has paid from the association on discovering that he has no interest in the life insured, and therefore no right to be a beneficiary. He might have an equitable lien on the fund however after the death of the insured. That is the rule of law laid down by the Supreme Court of Texas, and it is obviously sound. If the company were party to a deception of the beneficiary, however, it might be otherwise.

A year ago a farmer in East Garafraxa named John Kirkland insured his barn and its contents in the Waterloo Mutual Insurance Company for \$1,700. Last October the barn and contents were consumed by fire and ap-

plication was at once made to the company for the amount of the insurance. The company, however, was not satisfied that the loss was an honest one, and payment of Kirkland's claim was deferred. Investigation has resulted in the arrest of Kirkland on a charge of setting fire to his own barn. He was arrested and brought to Orangeville, where two magistrates decided that he should be committed on the evidence. Later he was bailed in \$1,500, to be tried at the spring assizes. The insurance inspector, who worked up the case against Kirkland, told that the insurance money had already been paid Kirkland.

A live stock company of New York State furnishes the following causes of death among 04 insured horses during the past five years. Colic 183, inflammation of bowels 77, kidney trouble 74, pneumonia 51, sunstroke 52, pink-eye 30, lockjaw 37, broken legs 12, epizootic 12, heart disease 10, blind staggers 4, fire 8, lightning 2, runaways 9, unknown diseases 128. Upon this the *Monitor* remarks: According to this record the risk from fire and lightning is among the smallest, instead of having the importance so often attached to it.

A copy of the 12th annual report of the chief engineer of the Hamilton Fire Department has been sent us. It is a pamphlet of sixty pages, containing a minute stock-taking of the apparatus, appliances, supplies, etc., of the department. We commend the following extracts to the attention of the authorities controlling such matters in Hamilton and elsewhere. Says Mr. Aitchison: "I would again recommend the locating of additional hydrants in the vicinity of large manufactories and business blocks of the city, owing to the present necessity of having to lay long lines of hose, by which the pressure is lessened. If the hydrants were more numerous, double the number of lines could be laid and more effective streams available. I also again call your attention to the inadequate water pressure. The pressure is only half of what is considered efficient for fire service, and does not average more than 45 lbs. to the square inch in the business portion of the city, where it should be not less than 80 lbs. This fact will be made apparant some day when a large fire occurs. The success of the fire department of this city lies in the fact that prompt alarms are given and fires are checked. But should a fire gain headway the department would, in a measure, be powerless." On the subject of chemical engines the chief has the following: "Experience has demonstrated the fact that were fires occur in stores, private houses and buildings filled with valuable goods, the danger of damage is very great where water is used. By the use of our chemical engines this has, in a great measure, been avoided, the chemicals having been used to advantage in nearly all cases and the danger to stock lessened, if not wholly prevented. The experience of fire departments where chemical engines have been fully tested, warrants the assertion that fully three-fourths of all fires are extinguished by chemical apparatus, with scarcely any damage or loss by water."

A genius who has been experimenting for some time with assessment life insurance says that a man's chance for benefit in it is like Dick Swiveller's fortune—"in perspective." The further the prospect is off the smaller it gets. An exchange says that platinum can now be drawn into wire so fine that twenty-seven strands twisted together may be inserted in the hollow of a hair. That's getting down fine for platinum, but it wont excite any wonder with the thousands of people who have experimented with "fraternal life

insurance," the attenuating possibility of which, as has been sadly learned, reaches the invisible.—*Detroit Free Press.*

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A pamphlet that is certain to prove of enduring interest to Scotch people, and which is likely to attract the attention of many who have not the advantage of being Caledonians, is "The Tartans of Scotland," compiled and published by John Catto & Co., importers King street, opposite the post-office, Toronto. It contains a descriptive catalogue of the clan tartans and the family tartans of Scotland; a roll of the landlords and bailies of the Highlands and Isles, A.D. 1587; badges of the clans; war-cries of the clans. The descriptions are from a curious manuscript known as the *Vestiarium Scoticum*, of the fifteenth century, whose writer, Sir Richard Urquhart, knight, thus gives his reasons for compiling his book:

"I haue taken on hande to compil, accord- and to my pvir habylitye, a trewe ensample off alle, or the maist parte, the pryncyppul tartanis of Scotlande. Sic as I maye discerne ym, baith for the trewe witting and pleas- aunce of alle cvriovs straungers, and to ye ende yt gif paravaunture, quhilk God forbyd, that herefter ovr covntrye fassoune sall alle to fayle and haillilie ovm to nocht, . . . yt then alle men may knawe the aulde gvysse of theyr forberis; . . ."

The following are brief extracts from the quaint and entertaining detailed descriptions of two hundred and twenty different tartans, alphabetically arranged, from Angus and Abercrombie to Wallace and Wemyss:

CAMERON CLAN.—Red ground, green checks, yellow line. "Clanchamron hath fover stryppis of grein upon ane scarlatt fyeld, and through- ovt ye redd sett ain stryp zello."

CAMEBON OF LOCHIEL.—Red ground, green and blue checks, white lines.

MACLEOD CLAN.—Blue and black ground, green check, red and yellow lines.

MACLEOD OF RAASAY, OR DRESS.—Amber ground, black checks, red line, and "yn ye myddest of ye zello sett ane stryp of twal."

The editor of the *Vestiarium* in a foot note quotes an old Gaelic poem, evidently referring to a MacLeod, thus translated:

"The wing of his plaid floated in the wind,
Like the yellow beam of the sun,
When he sinks amidst the waves
And spreads his golden hair on the sea."

STEWART—PRINCE CHARLIE.—Modification of Royal Stewart, with smaller red ground, and darker blue. "In earlier specimens of this tartan the blue lines were made lighter in tone, and rather wider, and was worn by the Prince in Edinburgh, in 1745. It was adopted as a military tartan, and is still used by the bands of more than one regiment."

The Messrs. Catto, while not perhaps enthusiasts on the subject, are considered hereabout very good authorities upon the "chequered cloths" variously known to commerce as plaids, checks and tartans. Such designs are held to have been not exclusive among Scottish Highlanders, but to have been common to all the great branches of the Celtic race, while the ancient Gauls themselves wore such brightly-colored patterns in their dresses. Macpherson of Cluny, the head of the clan, is said to have tartans in his possession 200 years old.

The business of compiling and furnishing information about mercantile credit is one which has nowhere been carried to such lengths as in the United States and Canada. Since the time when Erastus Wiman first conceived