

There is a law in Georgia similar to the Canadian law, requiring all natural premium on assessment companies to print the words "assessment plan" in red ink on the policies issued in the State and upon all advertising literature, and this law is being fulfilled in letter if not in spirit by some few shrewd assessment concerns in Georgia, who print their stuff entirely in red ink to match the color of the label selected by law. The law, as Mr. Bumble very truly observed, "is a hass."

The presence of the Spanish torpedo gunboat "Temeraire" somewhere between Sandy Hook and the Straits of Magellan has scared many an honest penny into the coffers of New York Underwriters. A rate of 12 1-2 per cent. was asked last week upon vessels which sailed some time ago, for Buenos Ayres. But it is expected that most of these vessels have paid war rates for the last time, and will now either lay up or transfer to British registers. With the British flag flying at the monkey-gaff even a New England skipper knows he has all the assurance of security he needs. And the rates do not bother him.

The Insurance Blue book (British) gives the total number of companies for 1897, as ninety-two compared with eighty-seven in the previous year. The premium income of the ordinary companies increased by £947,400, and of industrial companies £534,500.

The total increase in income from all sources was £1,270,000 for the ordinary companies, and £576,000 for industrial concerns. During the year claims were reduced by £422,000 and £22,900 respectively, and the assets of both classes of companies materially increased.

Bombardment Insurance Legalized. The bill providing for insurance against the hazards of bombardment has passed both houses of the Massachusetts legislature after a favorable report from the insurance committee. At the hearing Tuesday Commissioner Cutting, George P. Field and Col. E. C. Benton gave the committee the benefit of their ideas as to the form the proposed measure should take.

By the new law authorized companies doing a fire business can insure against damage from bombardment, but the contract must be separate and distinct from any fire insurance policy. The provisions of the surplus line law are amended to apply to the placing of this new class of insurance in outside companies.

The Scottish Widows' Fund still maintains pre-eminence amongst British offices, its funds during the last year having increased by no less than £642,000 sterling, the accumulated funds now amounting to £14,142,082, being an increase of nearly ten millions sterling since 1870, during which period the premium income has more than doubled. It is of interest to note how the excellent character of the business transacted by the Scottish Widows shows itself in the death claims. In 1870 these were £482,430. In 1897 the claims paid were £720,630, an increase of only 50 per cent., whilst the premiums had more than doubled. We observe that the Scottish Widows is dealing very tenderly with annuities; it probably shares the general opinion that, whilst not exactly discouraging this class of business, there ought not to be violent efforts to develop it.—*The Review*, London.

The Superintendent of Insurance of Kansas maintains that companies doing a life and accident business in Kansas must pay separate license and agents fees for accident business done in connection with life business and the reverse. Of the companies doing such business, the Aetna Life has paid the fees demanded, the Travelers has ceased doing accident business in Kansas, refusing to pay the fees demanded, and has been threatened with a suit at law in consequence, and now the Pacific Mutual Life of San Francisco propose to make a test case of the right of the State to collect such fees. The case of the Pacific Mutual will be submitted to the Kansas Courts upon an agreed statement of facts.

The case of H. H. Husted, one of a score of similar cases against the Covenant Mutual Life, of Galesburg, Ill., throughout the State of Illinois, has been dismissed by Judge Thompson at Galesburg. Plaintiff seeks to enjoin the company from connecting additional assessments, and to compel it to revise its rates. The Judge held that the complainant should have obtained an order from the Attorney-General of Illinois, and should have brought suit in his name, inasmuch as the company had re-incorporated under the law of 1893, which makes obligatory the bringing of such suits through the Attorney-General. An appeal has been taken to the Appellate Court.

Fortune has heaped favors on Commodore Dewey, and not the least of them is found in the fact that he has not been tied to the end of a cable. When he put out from Mirs Bay, Washington had to let go of him and leave him to do his fighting in his own way. It is safe to say that if Dewey had remained in constant telegraphic communication with the strategists in the Navy Department we should not have been in possession of Manila now. Perhaps we might have been maintaining a "pacific blockade" outside, and picking up unwary fishing schooners. It is also safe to say that if Sampson and Schley could get away from the wires for about two days we should hear more interesting news from Cuba than from the Philippines.—*Journal*.

Plain Talk. A meeting of the National Educational Association is to be held at Washington in July. The *Educational Review* hopes that nothing will interfere with a large and representative attendance, and adds:

"Such an impressive mobilization of the forces that make for peace and civilization will be in significant contrast to the barbarous and artificially stimulated war spirit which is now sweeping over the country. If it shall be the verdict of history that the United States of America closed the nineteenth century by waging a preventable war; we may well hang our heads in deepest shame. The shocking recklessness of speech of many public men in high station and the wicked sensationalism of a debauched and debauching press are enough to make a patriotic and intelligent American stand aghast. We are now paying in part the penalty of feeding the popular imagination for a generation past upon detailed accounts of prize-fights, brawls, murders and other crimes of violence. The sleeping brute spirit, which no civilization has ever succeeded in conquering, is aroused, and, amid scenes and incidents that are a disgrace to any form of government, our national legislature has said and done what it could to make honorable peace impossible."