

asked money for the branch lines while in England; that there is sure to be "a first-class line of steamships running between Vancouver and Yokohama and Hong Kong by the time the C.P.R. is completed," making the shortest and most expeditious route.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. L., WINNIPEG.—"Can you inform me if the Hartford Life and Annuity Company has made any deposit with the Canadian Government since July 12th, and if not, could a claim against them be collected in a court of law, and by what process." [We do not find the name of the company in question amongst those licensed to do business in Canada, and understand it has no deposit at Ottawa. This being the case, we do not see what chance there is of realizing anything upon a Canadian claim against the company.]

#### Meetings.

##### LIFE ASSOCIATION OF CANADA.

The following is the report submitted to the stockholders of the Life Association of Canada by its directors:

##### REPORT.

The Directors beg to submit the annual statement of the Association's business:  
1,400 policies were in force at the beginning of the year for....\$1,833,212  
349 new policies were issued during the year for..... 485,516  
1,749 policies were cancelled during the year for ..... 709,182  
1,292 policies remained on the books in force at the end of the year for .....\$1,606,546

There is thus a falling off in assurance to the extent of .....\$ 223,666

It is with great regret the directors have to report the unfavorable state of affairs exhibited. Although the solvency of the association is undoubted, it has been made quite clear to the directors that the business cannot be worked so as to yield a surplus from which bonuses could be paid to the policy-holders. They have now unanimously come to the conclusion that it would be for the interest of members to have their policies replaced by those of a company of approved position, in which the results realized in the past would afford a guarantee for future profitability. They give their preference for this purpose to the New York Life Assurance Company, now licensed and established in Canada, as an institution offering peculiar facilities and advantages, and possessing such financial strength as to command confidence. An arrangement is being made by which the policyholders desiring to effect an exchange into that office may do so on highly favorable terms. The excessive expenditure necessitated by the keen and growing competition for business having been one of the chief causes of weakness, the directors at once on realizing the downward tendency, discontinued all active measures for obtaining new assurances, and thus already something has been effected in the way of improvement in the financial position of the association. Lately it was thought well to entirely give up issuing new policies.

JAMES TURNER, President.  
Hamilton, Dec. 8th, 1884.

##### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

##### Revenue Account, 1883.

##### Dr.

Balance from last account.....	\$197,012 34
Premium .....	\$36,103 98
Less re-assurance prm's .....	397 24
	35,706 74
Interest .....	7,641 78
Guarantee fund—	
Further payments to account..	1,550 00
	\$241,910 86

##### Cr.

Death claims.....	\$25,595 60
Endowments matured.....	2,000 00
Surrenders.....	3,829 36
Dividends on guarantee funds....	3,942 08
Expenses .....	29,048 26
Agency balances irrecoverable....	1,841 21
Balance—	
Total assets as under.\$183,970 41	
Less total debt ....	8,316 06
	175,654 35

\$241,910 86

##### BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31st, 1883.

##### LIABILITIES.

Death claims unadjusted.....	\$5,000 00
Endowments due but unpaid .....	200 00
Surrender arranged and included in expenditure but unpaid .....	104 00
Dividend on guarantee fund accrued but not payable till January, '84.	1,544 39
Tradesmen's accounts unsettled....	1,467 67
Total debts.....	8,316 86
Guarantee fund.....	51,616 66
Reserves computed to cover assurance liability .....	156,215 00
	\$216,147 72

##### ASSETS.

Deposits in Landed Banking & Loan Company.....	\$ 12,789 03
Deposits in Hamilton Provident & Loan Society.....	10,616 45
Canadian Bank of Commerce (current account) .....	1,177 62
Cash in hand.....	746 71
Municipal debentures.....	118,182 96
Policy loans.....	5,559 68
Premium credits.....	400 00
Mortgages.....	6,655 35
Office furniture.....	750 00
Guarantee fund notes.....	2,084 75
Accrued interest .....	2,324 07
	\$161,286 62
Premiums due, in course of collection .....	\$17,391 95
Premiums deferred—half-yearly, etc., instalments of 1883 not due till 1884 .....	8,531 27
	\$25,923 22
Less commission.....	3,633 00
	\$ 22,290 22
Agency balances.....	393 57
	\$ 22,683 79
Total assets .....	\$183,970 41
Impairment of guarantee fund....	32,177 31
	\$216,147 72

JAMES TURNER, President.  
JOHN CAMERON, Manager.

Hamilton, December 8. 1884.

##### ENGLISH OPINIONS ON AN INSOLVENCY ACT FOR CANADA.

Sir John Macdonald, accompanied by Sir Charles Tupper, had an interview with the representatives of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, in London, England, upon the 27th ult. The conference had reference to the dishonest preferences which, since the repeal of the Insolvency Act of 1875, had been continually given by debtors in Canada to favored creditors. The representatives of the Boards urged that if it were not put an end to by a bankruptcy law or public registration of preferential claims, it would be a great impediment to trade between Great Britain and the Dominion of Canada. The deputation consists of Mr. Norwood, M.P., the president of the Chambers, and Mr. Leaf (London), Mr. T. F. Firth (Heckmondwike), Mr. Melliss, Mr. E. J. Hole, and Mr. E. W. Fithian. Mr. Norwood, M.P., briefly introduced the subject, when, says the London Times, Mr. Leaf stated that the want of a bankruptcy law in Canada was producing a serious state of things, and in the London market the trade with Canada had become almost a by-word. The question of the national credit was one of a magnitude which it would be desirable that the Canadian Government should take up by endeavoring to carry through some sort of general bankruptcy bill which would make fraudulent prefer-

ences in Ontario and the Lower Provinces as few as they hoped they were in Quebec.

Mr. T. F. Firth (Heckmondwike) said that what they complained of in respect to trade with Canada, was that it was exceedingly injurious, not only to British merchants, but to the Canadian merchants themselves, and that it was a direct incentive to fraud. If a man failed they found that he made a statement that his relatives had a prior claim, and these preferences were given without any publicity. Every trader should be compelled to register all preferences publicly, and any debts contracted prior to the registration should have priority.

Mr. Melliss complained that generally in large failures in Canada, the European creditors had not got a cent.

Sir Charles Tupper remarked that when, a few years ago, Sir John Macdonald tried to re-enact a new bankruptcy law, he was outvoted.

Sir John Macdonald said that the matter was discussed, and there was a preponderating feeling that the Bankruptcy Act had encouraged reckless trading. He might remark that all the preferential claims were not fraudulent, for a man would naturally go to his relatives to borrow money to tide him over his difficulties.

Mr. Firth—But it is an encouragement to fraud; and it is used for fraudulent purposes.

Sir John Macdonald—What are the provisions of the English Bankruptcy Act?

Mr. Leaf—The only way in which a preference could be given in England was by a man giving a bill of sale, and that was registered and it stopped his credit.

Mr. Firth mentioned a case where a debtor in New Brunswick classified his debts into four classes—first, to clerks; second, to his relatives; third, debts owing to Canadians; and fourth, debts he owed to the English.

Sir John Macdonald, in reply, said that the objection to fraudulent trustees was a very natural and a very obvious one, and it was very clear that preferences of every kind were to be avoided. It was very difficult to deal with the subject in Canada in consequence of the provisions of the Constitution. The law of contract is governed in each Province by its own legislation, and the Federal Parliament has no right to interfere with the law in any one of the Provinces which affects contract, with the one single exception that the Federal Parliament has the right to deal with the general subject of insolvency and bankruptcy, so that it can pass an Act on matters of insolvency and bankruptcy which would have the effect of depriving *pro tanto* the Provincial Legislatures of their right to deal with contracts *quo ad* in the case of bankruptcy and insolvency. Therefore the difficulty was this—that if they could not get a general Act of bankruptcy or insolvency from the Federal Parliament, that Parliament had no power to deal with the question of preference—that must be left to the Local Legislature of each Province. There were certain protectionists in Quebec and Ontario where fraudulent preference was always set aside on fraud being proved. But if, as had been suggested in New Brunswick, there were no protections, it worked very harshly, and it must be an encouragement to fraud. In Quebec he knew there were certain protections against fraudulent preferences, and concealed private preferences. In the Province of Ontario bills of sale must be registered. There was no publication in official gazette; there was no notification given. But any creditor of the person could search at the Registry of Land office of the county or the town and ascertain whether any bill of sale had been filed against the property of any individual. Therefore the Government and the Federal Parliament were both powerless to deal with the subject, unless by the enactment of a general law of bankruptcy or insolvency.

They had such a law, but it was found, or thought, to have a demoralizing effect on young men without capital, speculative persons, and others, who went into business and got (from the competition among merchants) credit too easily; and these people went on for a little, living expensively, and knowing that by going into the court they could get their discharge and commence *de novo*, be whitewashed and start again. It was believed in Canada that a greater check against dishonesty was to be obtained by the repeal of the Act, and leaving the party liable to the debt which he had incurred for all time to come. In Canada at present no person could get relief from the courts from the obligation that he had come under to his creditors. He was liable to be followed to all parts of Canada and the United States, and in