

INTEREST RATE BASIS.—The interest rate assumed as a basis by some of the companies at the present time is 3 per cent., by others 3 1-2 per cent., and by a very few 4 per cent., still. The rate assumed has been steadily reduced, owing to the constant decline in the interest-earning power of high-grade, long-time securities, the only class an insurance company ought to invest in. It should be borne in mind that contracts of insurance must be made to cover the exigencies of a long term; fifty or more years may elapse before the maturity of some of the policies written on the lives of the young men of to-day. This is why the interest basis must be so low that there is the highest degree of certainty that it will be realized for a long period to come. In England the basis adopted by some companies is still lower, and there is nothing in the nature of the case which would make it impossible for companies in this country to adopt a reduced basis if necessary to insure the absolute security of their investments.—“Exc.”

PERSONALS.

Mr. J. A. JESSUP, who recently severed his connection with the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Limited, to fill another important position in the insurance field, was last week the recipient of an illuminated address and gold locket, the joint testimony of his former confreres in the Montreal and Toronto offices of the Company.

Mr. Jessup, who is well known in Insurance and Military circles, was surprised at the unexpected kindness of his friends and responded *con amore*.

Mr. A. J. RALSTON, managing director National Life Assurance Company, Toronto, was in Montreal this week. He states that there is a very considerable increase in the volume of business written this year, over the same period last year.

SENATOR FULFORD, of Brockville, Ont., died on 15th inst., in the hospital at Newton, Mass. aged 53 years. On the 8th inst. Mr. Fulford was riding in a friend's automobile, which came in contact with a street car, by which the occupants of the motor machine were thrown out, the chauffeur being instantly killed and Mr. Fulford so injured internally as to cause his death in a week. The Senator was a member of Brockville town council for 12 years, and took an active interest in public affairs. In 1900 he was appointed to a seat in the Senate.

Mr. F. H. RUSSELL, manager for Canada Railway Passenger Assurance Company, was in Montreal this week.

Mr. B. HAL BROWN, Manager for Canada, London and Lancashire Life, has returned from a trip to the Lower Provinces, where the business of the Company is showing considerable prosperity.

Mr. A. VIAN, Secretary Railway Passengers Assurance Co., London, Eng., spent a few days in Montreal, recently, and favoured us with a visit.

Mr. Vian is visiting Canada for the first time. He informed us that he was very much impressed with the apparent wealth of Montreal, its business enterprises, and the large handsome office buildings in the commercial centres.

He purposes visiting the principal cities in the Dominion before returning to England.

The Railway Passengers' Assurance Co. was organized in 1849, and is one of the pioneers of the Accident business.

Mr. J. GARDNER THOMPSON, resident manager of the Liverpool and London and Globe Insurance Company, has returned from a trip to the Coast.

STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES.

Wednesday, p.m., October 18, 1905.

Some degree of uncertainty regarding the rate movement for loans, with a possibility of stringency in the United States, have combined to produce a dull market. Gold imports, which were expected to increase, have practically ceased, and the high rate to which foreign exchange has advanced, indicates the possibility of exports of the metal. It is hardly probable, however, that gold exports to Europe, of any importance, will take place this fall. In the meantime speculation in securities has been arrested, but there seems every likelihood of a buoyant and advancing market as soon as monetary conditions are improved.

The volume of trading in Montreal this week has been smaller than for some months past. A number of members are away taking advantage of the dull season, which tends to decrease transactions. Contrealt Street was the most active security this week, but even in this security the total sales were under one thousand shares. In Toronto Railway, Twin City, Halifax Tram and several other securities, less than 100 shares were dealt in during the week. The local market shows no tendency towards liquidation and many securities are selling cheap. Those who purchase carefully around the present level are likely to have attractive investments with a good speculative outlook. The trading in Montreal Cotton has lost its spectacular features and the price of the security is lower, and it is now considered that the Company is controlled by its own directors and likely to continue to work out its own destiny as an independent concern.

Call money in Montreal rules at 5 per cent. In New York the rate to-day fluctuated between 4 and 5 1-4 per cent., the majority of the day's loans being made at 5 per cent. In London call money is loaning at 3 1-2 per cent.

The quotations for money at continental points are as follows:—

	Market.	Bank.
Paris.....	215 6	3
Berlin.....	4 1	5
Amsterdam.....	2 1	2 1
Brussels.....	2 1	3
Vienna.....	3 1	3 1

C. P. R. advanced to 172 1-2 bid this week, but there were no sales over 172, and the stock closed with 170 1-2 bid, a decline of 1-4 point from last week's closing quotation, and only 658 shares in all were dealt in this week. The earnings for the second week of October show an increase of \$274,000.

The Grand Trunk Railway Company's earnings for the second week of October show an increase of \$57,339. The stock quotations as compared with a week ago are as follows:—

	A week ago.	To-day
First Preference.....	114 1	112 1
Second Preference.....	106 1	104
Third Preference.....	61 1	60 1

Montreal Street Railway is now selling X. D. of 2 1-2 per cent. payable on 1st November, and closed with 232 X. D. bid, equivalent to a decline of 3 full points for the week, and 947 shares changed hands. The earnings for the week ending 14th inst. show an increase of \$6,867.95 as follows:—

		Increase.
Sunday.....	\$8,052.87	\$1,835.40
Monday.....	8,714.46	1,046.63
Tuesday.....	8,290.79	697.44
Wednesday.....	7,867.23	926.81
Thursday.....	7,911.60	864.49
Friday.....	7,803.50	806.11
Saturday.....	8,804.00	791.07