SICKNESS AND ACCIDENT STATISTICS IN NEW ZEALAND.

The statistics published in the official Year Book of New Zealand are interesting, but they are not to be wholly depended upon as a guide to the same phenomena in this country. The climatic conditions of that colony differ very widely from those of Canada. There the variations in and range of temperature are less sudden and extreme than in the Dominion east of the "Rockies," but are not in a general sense very different from those of British Columbia west of the "Rockies." The climate being more temperate is favourable to health, but even temperate climates have their drawbacks and to an ordinary constitution the climate of Canada is as favourable as in other countries where our climatic extremes are never experienced.

The Year Book gives the following:

COMPARATIVE DEATH RATE FOR THE PERIOD 1892 TO 1900.

Country.	1892.	1894.	1895.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
New Zealand	10·06	10·19	9·91	9·14	9·84	10.24	9·43
Engl'd & Wales..	19·	16·5	18·7	17·4	17·5	18 2	18·2
Scotland.........	18.5	17·1	19·4	18·4	18·	18·1	18·5
Ireland...........	19·4	18·2	18·4	18·4	18·1	17.6	19·6
Sweden..........	17·9	16·4	15·2	15·4	15·1	17·7	16·8

Although official we are not prepared to accept the New Zealand returns as correct, for, from private sources of information we have evidence that the average mortality in New Zealand is much the same as in the old country.

The last census of the Colony shows that in 1901 9.28 persons in every 1,000 were laid aside, unable to work owing to sickness. Besides these there were 7.20 persons in every 1,000 suffering from blindness, lunacy, epilepsy, dumbness, etc., this making a total of 16.48 per 1000 who were incapacitated from some form of sickness. This is a high figure. It suggests the question, whether it would not be a more practical test of a climate to ascertain what proportion of the whole population was at work, or in a physical condition to work, rather than the mere mortality rate, which, as we know in this city, is liable to give a wholly erroneous impression owing to the high rate of infantile mortality caused by unsanitary personal habits, and not by climatic conditions.

The rates of sickness in New Zealand are given for each 1,000 males living as follows:

34 to 40 years....	5.68	65 to 70 years....	54.62
55 to 60 "	18.38	80 and upwards..	70.18

For females the rates were,

35 to 40 years...	6.97	55 to 60 years....	13.95
80 and upwards..	47.82		

Out of each 10,000 males 30.28 are reported as suffering from accident, while of females the proportion was only 6.27 per 10,000. This is in harmony with general experience as universally the male person is exposed in his daily calling and by his habits and surroundings to dangers from which females are free.

New Zealand doubtless has climatic, political, social attractions, it has no severe winters or torrid zone summer days, its politics too are of a "moderate" type, and socially there is a general diffusion of comfort, without great contrasts of wealth and poverty, neither is life not so strenuous there, but, on the whole, its attractions are not strong enough to draw Canadians away from this country.

VARIATIONS IN VALUE OF SECURITIES.

In the course of last year there were considerable variations in the market prices of the stocks chiefly dealt in on the Montreal Stock Exchange. The following table records the principle advances made and declines, with the percentage of the changes in both directions:

	Lowest Value	Highest Value.	Value 31st of Dec. 1904.	Per cent. of Advance	Per cent. of Decline at end of 1904.
Pacific..	93,738,750	$114,286 250	112,385,000	21.9	01.6
M., S. P. & S. M..	8 400,000	12,775,000	....	52.0	...
Montreal Street Railway..	13,851,111	15,277.500	15,050,000	10.0	01.4
Toronto Railway..	6,369,000	7,095.000	6 864.060	11.4	03.2
Twin City Railway..	14,832,500	18,253,750	18,020,000	23.0	01.2
Detroit Railway..	7,500,000	9,937,506	9,750.000	32.5	01.8
Halifax Railway..	1,147,500	1,434,375	1,424.250	25 0	00.6
Toledo Railway..	2 040,000	3,315,000	2,760,000	62.5	16.7
Montreal Power..	11,878,750	14,407,500	13,855,000	21.2	03.8
Mackay common..	6,450 000	12,150,000	11,925.000	83 7	01.8
Mackay preferred..	20,025,000	22,800,000	22.425,000	08.0	01.2
Dominion Iron..	1.450,000	3,900,000	3,700,000	100.0	05.1
Do. preferred	1,000,000	3,012,500	3,000,000	201.2	00.0
Ogilvie preferred..	1,462,000	1,687,500	1,637.500	15.3	02.9
Laurentide Pulp..	521.500	560,000	560,000	07.4	...
Do preferred..	299,250	304.500	303,000	01.7	00.0
Montreal Cotton..	2,940.000	3,240.000	3,060,000	10.2	05.5
Dominion Cotton..	788,636	1,270,320	1,167,936	61.1	08 0
Bank of Montreal..	35.712 445	34,105,486	35,642,576	04.7	00.0
Molsons Bank..	5,570.019	6,284,124	6,284,124	12 8	...
Bank of Toronto..	6,617.924	6,883.822	6,854,278	04.0	00.0
Merchants Bank..	9.015,000	10,080,000	10,080,000	11.8	...
Royal Bank..	6,105,000	6,277.500	6.210,000	02.8	00.0
Quebec Bank..	2,975,000	3,250,000	3,200,000	09.3	01.5
Union Bank..	3.225,000	3,550·000	3,550,000	10.0	...
Bank of Commerce..	13.006,500	14,572.500	14,507,250	11.2	00.0
Dominion Coal bonds..	2,729.570	3.006.100	3,006,100	10.1	00.0
Laurenttde bonds..	1,200,000	1,284,000	1,284,000	07.0	...
Ogilvie bonds..	1,100,000	1,180,000	1,150,000	07.2	02.6
	High Level.	Low Level.	Decline.	Decline	Recovery
Richelieu..	2,741,500	1,172,600	1,300,520	57.2	10.9
N. S. Steel..	3,378,400	2,060,000	2,760,400	39.0	34.0
Do. preferred..	1,225.700	1,030,000	1,133,000	15.9	10.0
Do. Bonds..	2,687,300	2,455,215	2,626,225	08.6	07.0