Weekly Colonist

FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1887.

THE SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

It is oftentimes interesting as well as profitable to compare the present with the past, and the probable future; the realizations of the now with the anticipations of the past and future *then*. It is frequently asserted by politicians who are the avowed foes of the Canadian confederation, that the movement toward that end was of mushroom growth and only inaugurated at the Charlottetown convention of 1864. This fallacy has been frequently exposed, but its absurdity was more clearly revealed in reading "The Signs of the Times," a somewhat famous work by Dr. Christian Charles Josiah Bunsen, published at Leipzig in 1855. Chevalier Bunsen was a clever and learned Prussian diplomatist who represented that kingdom at the court of St. James for some fourteen years. He had spent one portion of his life in Berlin, another in Rome and a third in London, but his removal was finally effected by the Russian party at the Berlin court. Upon his return he wrote the work in two volumes, the title of which we have mentioned above. The following extract from the first pages of the work will be read with interest as the opinion of such a distinguished scholar so early as 1855, some ten years before the session of the Charlottetown convention of maritime representatives:

"On my return to my own country last summer, after fourteen years absence in England, I began to compare the impressions with which I had left Germany, with the more ripe views which through more extended study and a more large experience I had obtained; and in doing so I found my mind's eye fixed on the phenomena, which stood forth as *signs of the times*, both by the extensiveness of their operation and by the pregnancy of their significance. *I mean the power of free spontaneous association on the one hand*, and on the other the rising claims and increased power of the clergy or hierarchy. The principle of voluntary association, to speak of this first, has been for a long time active in England, and there is in and about London, and in great Britain generally, scarcely any great movement or public work, of which the roots are not to be sought in that principle. From an association of the merchants and capitalists has within a single century arisen to the British Empire in India, one of the greatest in the world. The free State of America arose principally out of the free Christian congregations and other English associations; and the germs of a Canadian union are even now visible, which, through the power of this principle, is destined to play no unimportant part in the theatre of the world.

Thus some two years before the consummation of the Canadian Union did a German statesman foresee the important part which confederated Canada was to play in the immediate future. The confederation movement progressed. The political union was effected, to be more closely welded by the construction of the Intercolonial railroad within the next six years and the completion of a trans-continental line twelve or thirteen years later. These scattered British American provinces were joined in a commercial as well as a political union, and the progress which has since been achieved is one that has gained for this Dominion world-wide recognition and deserved commendation. Yet as no other association of provinces or kingdoms was ever permanently secured without oppositions, discords and dissentions, so Canada has had those in her midst who have ever been anxious to dismember the Dominion and destroy all the acquisitions of the past. By whatever name this disintegrating movement has been known, it has had the support of those who were opposed to the union at the outset, and that number has been increased by the addition of every individual who has not prospered politically, commercially or socially, as he had ambitiously aimed to do.

At one time this movement took the form of rebellion and again of secession, but both these spasmodic attempts to dissever the provinces proved futile and vain and only succeeded in covering the agitators with dishonor and disgrace. More recently there has been an insidious endeavor on the part of one or more disgraced and discredited factions to encourage a sentiment in favor of annexation to the neighboring republic, and various methods have been employed to effect their purpose. The attempt has been made to bulldoze the Canadian people into regarding annexation with favor by presenting the consideration that our neighbors are stronger than we, and that we are unable to protect ourselves against their aggression. The cry was raised not later than during the February elections that it was suicidal for Canada to resist the encroachment of the American nation upon Canadian rights, and that the wisest policy for Canadians to adopt was to succumb to their demands at once. Such a sentiment gained but slight support among the Canadian people, and a more insidious cry has now been raised by these same agitators who have hitherto been so unsuccessful.

In this instance, Commercial Union is the guise under which their real intentions are for the time concealed. The annexation policy is kept in the back ground or covered over with a sickly sentimental parlance that sometimes passes current for honesty outspoken and well-considered opinions. No arguments which have in them a tangible basis of reason or fact has yet been presented in favor of such a policy; in fact, commercial union itself is a mere chimera which, as distinct from annexation, has never been formulated into a tangible policy at all. It is true that argument has been advanced in favor of Canada accepting the American tariff as against all other nations and receiving in return a *per capita* proportion of the consolidated customs revenue; but so long as Canada is politically independent of the United States, Canadians will never agree to have their tariff regulated at the option of a foreign legislature.

It has been urged by Mr. Butterworth that the United States should place all imports from Canada on the free list, and that Canada should reciprocate in this respect; but Mr. Butterworth seems to be a politician who is not without honor save in his own country; at least, his proposal gained but slight support in the federal house of representatives while it has been summarily rejected by one or more state legislatures into which it has been introduced; and at the same time the influential portion of the American press frankly state that such a customs union will only be consummated when Canada becomes incorporated into the union under the star spangled banner. So suggestive are these facts that intelligent Canadians will naturally realize the futility of discussing a scheme the consummation of which necessitates such a radical change in their political existence.

But even were the conditions more favorable, would it be in any sense expedient for Canada to enter into commercial union with the United States with one protective tariff raised against the rest of the world? Thirty-three years ago Dr. Bunsen wrote that this Canadian union was "destined to play no unimportant part in the theatre of the world." Will that part best be played as a state of the American union? Or are we fitted by our political, social and commercial associations for a more ambitious and more successful sphere of national life? Situated as we are, as the connecting link that binds the United Kingdom to the vast and varied British dominions in the east, providing as we do a British highway for British commerce from the Atlantic to the Pacific, is it well that we should summarily sever our commercial, not to speak of our political, connection with the British Empire and unite our destiny with that of the republic to the south of us?

Already our trade with the British Isles is equal in volume and more profitable to us than our trade with the United States. If weighed in the balances, we would not be long in deciding to prefer our British to our American trade. How then shall it be when the trade with the United States is placed in the scales against the trade with Great Britain and the British dominions *the world over*?

These are grave questions which are not to be discussed in a flippant manner. They are questions which are obtruding themselves upon the attention of the reading and thinking public. But in the end we have no doubt that Canada will without hesitation, refuse to sacrifice the political and commercial relations which we are destined to secure with the British dominions the world over, for the trivial advantage that would accrue to us as a commercial or as a political state of the American republic. Rather should we weld the old bonds the closer; until the states of the republic will realize that they can secure their fullest prosperity by becoming a state of a federate union of the Anglo-Saxon speaking peoples of the globe.

TWENTY carloads of new crop tea, says the San Francisco *Call*, were dispatched from this city to Chicago yesterday by a special train: eighteen carloads went forward in like manner on the day previous. On this day week the Belgic will be due with 690 more tons of tea, which will be forwarded to the same point in the same way and with the same dispatch. This tea will reach New York in about twenty-four days from Yokohama, or twenty-eight days from Shanghai. In case it should be wanted in England, it would reach Liverpool in about thirty-six days from Shanghai, as against forty-five days from Honghong to London by the Suez canal. This difference of time will probably secure to this country the carrying trade in tea to the exclusion of the British carriers by the canal, if our roads are left free to compete. It is clear, however, that the British are not going to surrender the traffic without a struggle. The old Cunarder Abyssinia is expected to arrive in a day or two at Port Moody with a cargo of tea from Yokohama, which is to be forwarded to Chicago and New York over the Canadian Pacific. The Canadians have an advantage in mileage over our lines. But this advantage will be offset by the superior speed of our vessels, if the Canadians can charter no better craft than the Abyssinia, which seldom crossed the Atlantic in less than fourteen days. Orders have already been issued to the captains of the Occidental and Oriental vessels to shorten the voyage between Yokohama and this port by two days.

THE PIONEER'S ADDRESS

To His Honor Lieut.-Governor Nelson—A Cordial Reception.

Last evening about seventy-five members of the British Columbia Pioneer Society visited the Lieut.-Governor and Mrs. Nelson at Cary Castle for the purpose of presenting a congratulatory address. The deputation was cordially received, and after the address and reply had been read, those present sat down to a *recherche* supper, which was heartily enjoyed. The members of the society returned at 10 o'clock, having spent a most pleasant evening. Following is

THE ADDRESS.

To His Honor Hugh Nelson, Lieutenant Governor:

SIR:—We, the members of the British Columbia Pioneer Society, beg to tender you our sincere and hearty congratulations upon your appointment to the lieutenant governorship of this province.

It has always been a source of gratification to us to see so many important positions filled by pioneers and members of our society, but we feel particularly honored in the selection of one from among us to occupy the highest position in the province, viz: that of lieutenant governor. Especially when we reflect that for nearly thirty years your honor has been identified with the progress of our province, and that you have always been one of the foremost in every movement that had for its object the promotion of the welfare and prosperity of the country.

Knowing, as we do, how earnestly and consistently you always advocated the cause of confederation, and since its accomplishment, how faithfully and fearlessly you have in the Dominion commons and senate represented the rights and interests of our province we deem it a fitting tribute to your merit that upon the completion of the Canadian Pacific railroad, which is itself the mainstay and bond of confederation, you should be chosen by the Dominion government to preside over the destinies of the province that you have so ably and honorably represented for the last fifteen years, and we trust that during your honor's term of office the province will make such rapid progress in wealth and prosperity as will cause it to be known as the golden era of British Columbia.

In conclusion we beg you to accept for yourself and Mrs. Nelson our best wishes for a long life of happiness and usefulness, and we trust that your endeavors to further the best interests of this province and the Dominion generally may meet with all the success that you yourself could desire.

THE REPLY.

To the Members of the British Columbia Pioneer Society:

MR. VERY DEAR FRIENDS—It gives me the greatest pleasure to receive such a large and influential body of citizens of this province belonging to the same society as myself, a society without either religious or political bias, and devoting itself to benevolence alone.

Many of you are personally known to me since the earliest days of the province, and not a few of you I am proud to say I look upon as my personal and intimate friends. I do heartily with you in the feeling of gratification and pride at the knowledge that, although new faces have been coming amongst us continually, and in increasing numbers, yet old Pioneers are still found standing forward among our principal and most important citizens, and are held in respect and esteem not only by their compatriots but also by the whole community. It is however, a painful thought with me as it must be with you all, that so many respected members of our society, some of them scarcely beyond the prime of life, have been called from among us, the days of hardship, privation, and trial which many have undergone in the early days in the attempted development of the country, have served the seeds of disease that have ripened, only too soon. I thank you, my dear friends, for your kind interpretation of my actions as a representative of the province in the Dominion Senate and House of Commons. I can only say that with greater powers of understanding and speech my efforts would have been more successful. I can say, however, that I have always recorded my vote on what I considered the right side, and unflinchingly gave it support.

From the earliest days I have been a believer in, and supporter of, confederation, and I believe now that we of British Columbia are only beginning to feel its beneficial effects. We possess the gateway from the Pacific, the grandest ocean on the globe, to a new empire springing into existence, the trade of which, as it develpment will be in proportion to its increase in population and both of these we may expect to progress with giant strides, Canada without the Canadian Pacific railway would have remained as Canada, was before its construction; Canada, by building the Canadian Pacific railway, elevated herself into the dignity of a nation, and opened out for herself a great future. The only power possible to prevent the trade of the great Northwest passing into the hands of the great republic to the south of us, and of that great country itself eventually dropping into the lap of our powerful neighbor was the power evolved from the laying of those two narrow parallel bands of iron spanning the continent from ocean to ocean, bands of iron non-electrical in one point of view, but electrical in their effect, conveying not a spasmodic current of chained lightning, but a current of life and vigor, a current of energy and enterprise, a current of civilization and development, and the sounds of the wheels and the whistle of the locomotive echoing over the boundless prairies of the Northwest and through the mountains and valleys of British Columbia, will pr claim that humanity's monster beehives have found new working grounds for hive after hive of the smoked-out occupants of over-done communities.

My dear friends it was my intention to try and make a longer and more fitting reply to your kind address, but as some of you are aware, I have been for a number of days quite unwell, and felt myself quite incapable of devoting myself to this object.

I have now to thank you most heartily for the kind allusion to Mrs. Nelson and myself in the last paragraph of your address, and to express the hope that on my retirement from office we may convey with us the good wishes of the Pioneers as fully as they have been expressed to us to-day.

CONDENSED DISPATCHES.

Gladstone returned from Wales to London yesterday.

The Central Labor Union in New York has denounced O'Brien.

More evictions at Bodyke, Ireland, were reported yesterday.

The business outlook in the United States is reported excellent.

The California wheat crop will be about the same as usual this year.

Cardinal Gibbons has returned after a four months' absence in Europe.

Wheat was quoted at 210 per cental in the San Francisco Exchange Monday.

The redemption of American trade dollars to date amounts to $17,000,000.

An earthquake recently occurred in the vicinity of St. Louise, Quebec. No serious damage.

Douglas Baird's filly Briar Root won the Whitsuntide plate of 5000 sovereigns by a neck.

It is doubtful whether Blaine will come out as a candidate for the United States presidency.

It was announced yesterday that the prime minister of Belgium wants to abandon his office.

Emperor William has laid the foundation stone of the Holtenan lock of the North sea canal.

The marine hospital bureau of Washington is making every effort to check the spread of the yellow fever epidemic at Key West.

Losses by fire in the United States for May were about $10,636,500, $2,500,000 increase over any past year.

The sealing schooner Ellen, of San Francisco, going into Behring's sea will be placed under the British flag.

President Cleveland says the first he knew about his alleged western tour was by reading it in the newspapers.

Since Cardinal Gibbons made a report of the Knights of Labor at Rome the order has grown famous in Europe.

It is reported that England will profit by the present disorders in Afghanistan and become mistress of the country.

Jake Kilrain has been presented with the champion's diamond belt of America, which he won by knocking out John L. Sullivan, who has at last been fairly dethroned.

Rev. Dr. Reid, of Manson, Mo., who became a missionary in Central Africa, has been killed and eaten by cannibals.

There appears to be some truth in the reported plot to incite revolution and place Don Carlos on the throne of Mexico.

It is decided that an American fishing schooner may enter within the three-mile Canadian limit to buy bait or for repairs.

Suit has been commenced by George B. Mowry against the members of the boycotting association of San Francisco for $25,000.

Cardinal Gibbons will soon issue an address to the Catholics connected with labor organizations.

The body of ex-Vice-President Wheeler laid in state yesterday at Malone, N. Y., and he was buried with military and civic honors.

The London *Daily News* says it is not Gladstone's fault that the liberal quarrel is not healed. Neither he nor his supporters are irreconcilable.

Assistant-Secretary Maynard has telegraphed to the collector of San Francisco to prevent the landing of French convicts from New Caledonia.

At Marysville, Ky., on Monday, John Fields, a farmer, shot his wife and son and then cut his own throat. Jealousy was the cause of the crime.

The troops on the San Carlos reservation in Arizona, are in pursuit of offending Indians, but it is doubtful whether they will capture them.

The Italian government is determined to retain possession of Massowah in Africa, and has granted additional funds for the expenses of troops.

The publication in the London *Times* yesterday of another installment of the "Parnellism and crime" articles is likely to create a great sensation.

One hundred and sixty-one persons have been summoned as jurors in the Sharp bribery case in New York, and the work of getting a jury still continues.

In view of recent events in France, the immediate future in Europe is looked forward to with full confidence, and assurances of the maintenance of peace are felt.

A dispatch from Brididium, Anam, says a Mandarin and 40,000 natives have submitted to the French residents, pledging allegiance according to the native custom.

The King and Queen of Italy on Monday attended the ceremony of unveiling a monument to the Italian soldiers who fell in the recent battle at Dongola with the Abyssinians.

Gladstone in a speech at Newport inveighed against a change of venue provided for in certain cases of the Irish Crimes act amendment bill and the measure barely made public.

The largest part of the passengers in the steamer Sir John Lawrence which went down in a cyclone off Calcutta, were ladies *en route* to Juggernaut in Arrissa, to celebrate the festival.

The efforts of thousands of workmen for three days, and tons upon tons of stone and earth, proved not sufficient to stop the rushing in of the waters in the sea dyke in districts of Hungary.

Advices from Zanzibar say: Karl Peters chief of the German African Society, recently raised a military force to march against the natives of Dares Salaam, to compel them to sign treaties.

It is asserted that the recent story that fourteen Mokharas officials at Kerki, were murdered by the Afghans, for refusing to incite the inhabitants to resist the Russian advance, was a pure invention.

Frank O'Brien has sued Greenbaum & Straus in San Francisco, and Henry Wolfsohn, to recover certain shares in the Consolidated California and Virginia and Ophir Mining companies, valued at $75,000.

A circular has been sent to 1000 representative members of the Wesleyan church, asking their opinion of the government's Irish coercion bill. Sixty-nine per cent. of those who received the circular condemn the measure.

The troops of the Ameer of Afghanistan and Poland Ghilzes who are in a revolt against the Ameer's authority, retain the same position that they have occupied for some time past and are apparently trying to starve each other out.

The new rubber monopoly does away with the business of about 200 importers and masses the buying power in the hands of one brokerage house alone. It also fixes the price of crude rubber. The industry to-day represents an investment of $50,000,000, and an annual trade of over $100,000,000. Upward of 25,000 men are employed.

The London *Standard* says, commenting on Canada's increase of duties on iron and steel: Free trade is on the Canadian side, and large will it be in spite of the insane tariff of the United States, and the larger her trade with the United States the richer will the Canadian people become.

At a meeting of the Fifth ward branch of the Irish National League in New York, ex-Senator Grady made an address, in which he strongly commended Editor O'Brien for refusing to attend the mass meeting Monday night. Grady said Ireland's cause should be mixed up with no other questions.

Lord Randolph Churchill says workers must not allow Ireland to absorb all their attention but must bring pressure on the government to prevent such extravagances as the spending of a million pounds on army and admiralty buildings, and £17,000 for decorating Westminster abbey in honor of the Queen's Jubilee.

Mastico Chas, Yaqui chief, who is said to have served under the famous Cajeme in the late Yaqui war in Sonora, arrived at Benson, A. T., Monday morning, shackled and handcuffed, in charge of a Mexican agent, on the way to Guaymas. He was captured in Tucson, and surrendered to the Mexican authorities on a requisition from the governor of Sonora.

A much married family lives in Fayette county, New York, five Hamby boys and the same number of Starnes girls. As the Hamby boys began marrying Mr. Starnes' daughters in succession he protested, but in vain, the last couple eloping to be married yesterday. Starnes seeing himself thus outwitted, went to the house of Mrs. Hamby, the mother, and almost by force put her into his buggy, and riding off to Fayetteville, married her, thus completing the circle of family unions.

NANAIMO ASSIZES.

NANAIMO, June 7.—The summer assizes opened at 11 o'clock this morning before Mr. Justice Crease. D. M. Eberts is the crown prosecutor. John Thompson, foreman of the grand jury, was absent Juror Grey was fined. Mr. Justice Crease charged the grand jury on the cases. Geo. Milne, indicted for arson, is dead. Court adjourned till 1:30.

Astonishing Success.

It is the duty of every person who has used *Boschee's German Syrup* to let its wonderful qualities be known to their friends in curing Consumption, severe Coughs, Croup, Asthma, Pneumonia, and in fact all throat and lung diseases. No person can use it without immediate relief. Three doses will relieve any case, and we consider it the duty of all Druggists to recommend it to the poor, dying consumptive, at least to try one bottle, as 80,000 dozen bottles were sold last year, and no one case where it failed was reported. Such a medicine as the *German Syrup* cannot be too widely known. Ask your druggist about it. Sample bottles to try, sold at 10 cents. Regular size, 75 cents. Sold by all Druggists and Dealers, in the United States and Canada. dw

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting.

Held at the Head Office, Toronto street, Toronto, on Tuesday, April 12th, 1887, at 3 p.m.

The meeting was well attended by Policyholders, Shareholders and others interested.

The President was elected Chairman, and J. K. Macdonald, Secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman called upon the Secretary to read the notice calling the meeting, which was done.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were taken as read.

The President then submitted the Fifteenth Annual Report as follows:

The close of the year 1886 completes the Three quinquennial periods of this Association's existence, and the results, from whatever standpoint viewed, afford striking evidence of true progress.

It is, therefore, with a large measure of satisfaction that the Directors meet the Policyholders and Shareholders in the Fifteenth Annual meeting with evidences of success unequalled in the history of Canadian Life Companies. It has continued to be the aim of the Directors to secure business at reasonable rates, and hence they have avoided the extravagance in that direction which too strongly marks the struggle for pre-eminence between Life Insurance Companies. A safe business, on only well-tried lines of insurance, has been sought for, and therefore all merely specious plans which, in the opinion of the Directors, are certain to prove delusive, have been avoided. The adoption of such plans and a less conservative course in caring for the Policyholders' money, would have led to a largely increased volume of business; but, if that course had been adopted, a less satisfactory balance sheet and a decreased surplus would have been the result.

During the year (including 112 reassurances for $173,350 from the Life Association of Canada), 1,619 applications for a total assurance of $2,977,100 were received. Of these, 1,512 for $2,794,100 were approved, and 107 for $183,000 were declined. It should be mentioned that these results represent only Eleven months' work, and yet, as compared with the full year 1885, the Eleven months' work shows an increase of 427 accepted applications for $497,000 of assurance.

No stronger evidence than the above can well be offered of the appreciation by the public of the special advantages afforded by the Association: high standard of security, and liberal terms and results, combined with only sound plans of insurance.

At the close of the year the register showed the following business in force:—9,453 policies on 8,476 lives, for $14,979,474 of assurance.

In the matter of re-assurance from the Life Association, and the consideration allowed for the same, the Directors might have charged only a part to the expenses of the year, carrying the balance to some such account as "Commuted Commissions;" but such a course would have been contrary to the practice of this Company, and while apparently increasing the surplus, would have been calculated to affect adversely the security for the policyholders. Instead of bringing out a violent protestation of fond affection and remorse, which she fully expected, John drew himself up, looked at her fixedly for a long, long minute, then dropped her and, and a slow smile, while his voice slowly said:

"Yes, it may be as you say, better all around. You know best," and was gone from the room before she could recover from her astonishment enough to utter a sound.

With a wild cry Betty rushed across the room, first tossing the ten dollar bill savagely as far as she could throw it, and flinging herself on the comfortable old sofa, broke into a flood of bitter tears at a first she had shed during her married life.

"If he knew why I sighed," she moaned. "Oh, my husband! Birthdays, nothing will make any difference now. Oh, why can't I die?"

How long she stayed there, crouched down on the old sofa, she never knew.

Over and over the dreadful scene she went, realizing its worst features each time in despair, until heavy footsteps proclaimed that some one was at the point of breaking in upon her uninvited, and a voice in the little kitchen called:

"Betty!"

Betty sprang up, choked back her sobs, and tried with all her might to compose herself and remove all traces of her trouble.

The visitor was the worst possible one she could have under the circumstances. Prospering herself on terms of the closest intimacy with the pretty bride, who with her husband had moved into the village a twelvemonth previous, Miss Elvira Simmons had made the very most of her opportunities, and by dint of making great parade over helping her in some domestic work, such as housekeeping, dressmaking and the like, the sneaking lady had managed to ply secretary, confidant, chief of news-gatherer, at less and the same time pretty effectually.

She always called her by her first name, though Betty resented it; and she made a point of calling her friendship on every occasion, making John rage violently and vow a thousand times the "old maid" should walk!

But she never had—and now, scenting dimly, like a carrion crow after its prey, that trouble might come to the pretty little white house, the make-mischief had come to do her work if devastation had really commenced.

"Been crying!" she said. "Only folks do say that you and your husband don't live happy—but la! I wouldn't mind—I know talk your fault."

Betty's heart stood still. Had it come to this? John and she not to live happily? To be sure they didn't, as she remembered with a pang the dreadful scene of words and hot tempers; but had it gotten around so soon—a story in everybody's mouth? With all her distress of mind she was saved from opening her mouth. So Miss Simmons, failing in that, was forced to go on.

"As I tell folks so," she said, rocking herself back and forth to witness the effect of her words, "when they get to talkin', so you can't blame me if things don't go easy for you, I'm sure."

"You tell folks so?" repeated Betty, vaguely. "What? I don't understand you."

"Why, that the blame is all his," cried the old maid, exasperated at her strange mood and her dullness. "I say, says I, why they couldn't no one live with him, let alone that pretty wife he's got. That's what I say, Betty." And then, I tell 'em what a queer man he is, how cross, and—"

"And you dare to tell people such things of my husband?" cried Betty, drawing herself up to her extremest height, and towering so over the old woman in the chair that she jumped in confusion at the storm she had raised, and stared blindly into the blazing eyes and face rosy with indignation. Her only thought was how to get away from the storm she had raised, but could not stop.

But she was forced to stay, for Betty stood just in front of the chair, and blocked up the way, so she slunk back into the smallest corner of it and took it as best she could.

"My husband!" cried Betty. "The best, the kindest, the noblest husband God ever was given to a woman. I've made him more trouble than you can guess; my hot temper has vexed him—I've been cross, impatient, and—"

"Hold!" cried a voice, "you're talking against my wife!" and in a moment big John Peabody rushed through the door, grasped the little woman in his arms, and folded her to his heart.

"Oh!" said Miss Simmons, sitting up straight and setting her spectacles more firmly.

"And now that you've learned all that you can," said John, turning round to her, still holding Betty "why—you may go."

The chair was vacant. A dissolving view through the door was all that was to be seen of the gossip, who started up the road hurriedly, leaving town behind.

"Betty," said John, some half hour afterward, "what was the sigh for! I don't care now, but I did think, dear, when you put that ten dollar bill in my hand I didn't hardly know it, and I suppose I did give one little hitch—a sigh, for, was provoked, that I hadn't waited buying them till to-day."

John caught up the little woman, dressing-gown and all.

"I don't think they have ever mended since at least I have never [illegible] it."

A MISCHIEVOUS SIGH.

Betty sighed. Now why she should have sighed at this particular moment no one on earth could tell. And it was all the more exasperating because John had just generously put into her little shapely hand a brand new ten dollar bill. And here began the trouble.

"What's the matter?" he said, his face falling at the faint sound, and his mouth clapping together in what those who knew him but little called an "obstinate pucker." "Now what's it?"

Betty, who had just begun to change the sigh into a merry little laugh rippling all over the corners of the red lips, stopped suddenly, tossed her head, and, with a small jerk no way conciliating, sent out the words:

"You needn't insinuate, John, that I'm always ill-tempered."

"I didn't insinuate—who's talking of insinuating?" cried he, thoroughly incensed at the very idea, and backing away a few steps, he glared down from his tremendous height in extreme irritation. "I've yourself that's forever insinuating and all that, and then for you to put it on me—it's really abominable!"

The voice was harsh, and the eyes that looked down into hers were not pleasant to behold.

"And if you think, John Peabody, that I'll stand and have such things said to me, you mistake your guess—that's all!" cried Betty. "Forever insinuating! I guess you wouldn't have said that before I married you!"

"Didn't you say it first, I'd like to know?" cried John in great excitement. "I can't endure everything!"

"And if you bear more than I do!" cried Betty, wholly beyond control now, "why, then I'll give up," and she gave a bitter little laugh and tossed her head again.

Here they were in the midst of a quarrel! These two, who, but a year before, had promised to love and protect and help each other through life!

"Look," said John, "we'll have no more of this nonsense!"

His face was very pale, and the lines around the mouth so drawn that it would have gone to any one's heart to have seen their expression.

"I don't know how you will change it, help it," said Betty, half frightened at her dismay at the turn affairs had taken, "I'm sure!" and she pushed back the light, waving hair from her forehead with a saucy, indifferent gesture.

Her gesture struck to his heart as he glanced at her sunny locks and the cool, indifferent face underneath, and before he knew it he was saying:

"There is no help for it now, I suppose."

"Oh, yes, there is," said Betty, still in the cool, calm way that ought not to have deceived him. "You needn't try to endure it, John Peabody, if you don't want to. I'm sure I don't care!"

"What do you mean?"

Her husband grasped her arms and compelled the merry brown eyes to look up to him.

"I can go back to mother's," said Betty provokingly. "She wants me any day, and then you can live quietly and live to suit yourself, and it will be better all around."

Instead of bringing out a violent protestation of fond affection and remorse, which she fully expected, John drew himself up, looked at her fixedly for a long, long minute, then dropped her arm, and a slow smile, while his voice slowly said:

"Yes, it may be as you say, better all around. You know best," and was gone from the room before she could recover from her astonishment enough to utter a sound.

With a wild cry Betty rushed across the room, first tossing the ten dollar bill savagely as far as she could throw it, and flinging herself on the comfortable old sofa, broke into a flood of bitter tears at a first she had shed during her married life.

"If he knew why I sighed," she moaned. "Oh, my husband! Birthdays, nothing will make any difference now. Oh, why can't I die?"

How long she stayed there, crouched down on the old sofa, she never knew.

Over and over the dreadful scene she went, realizing its worst features each time in despair, until heavy footsteps proclaimed that some one was at the point of breaking in upon her uninvited, and a voice in the little kitchen called:

"Betty!"

Betty sprang up, choked back her sobs, and tried with all her might to compose herself and remove all traces of her trouble.

The visitor was the worst possible one she could have under the circumstances. Prospering herself on terms of the closest intimacy with the pretty bride, who with her husband had moved into the village a twelvemonth previous, Miss Elvira Simmons had made the very most of her opportunities, and by dint of making great parade over helping her in some domestic work, such as housekeeping, dressmaking and the like, the sneaking lady had managed to ply secretary, confidant, chief of news-gatherer, at less and the same time pretty effectually.

She always called her by her first name, though Betty resented it; and she made a point of calling her friendship on every occasion, making John rage violently and vow a thousand times the "old maid" should walk!

But she never had—and now, scenting dimly, like a carrion crow after its prey, that trouble might come to the pretty little white house, the make-mischief had come to do her work if devastation had really commenced.

"Been crying!" she said. "Only folks do say that you and your husband don't live happy—but la! I wouldn't mind—I know talk your fault."

Betty's heart stood still. Had it come to this? John and she not to live happily? To be sure they didn't, as she remembered with a pang the dreadful scene of words and hot tempers; but had it gotten around so soon—a story in everybody's mouth? With all her distress of mind she was saved from opening her mouth. So Miss Simmons, failing in that, was forced to go on.

"As I tell folks so," she said, rocking herself back and forth to witness the effect of her words, "when they get to talkin', so you can't blame me if things don't go easy for you, I'm sure."

"You tell folks so?" repeated Betty, vaguely. "What? I don't understand you."

"Why, that the blame is all his," cried the old maid, exasperated at her strange mood and her dullness. "I say, says I, why they couldn't no one live with him, let alone that pretty wife he's got. That's what I say, Betty." And then, I tell 'em what a queer man he is, how cross, and—"

"And you dare to tell people such things of my husband?" cried Betty, drawing herself up to her extremest height, and towering so over the old woman in the chair that she jumped in confusion at the storm she had raised,

LIABILITIES.

Dec. 31st, 1886.		
Assurance Fund (including bonus additions)	$1,567,157	
Annuity Funds	13,890	
	$1,580,947	
Loss for policies re-assured	19,000	
		$1,561,378 60
For temporary reductions		3,623 27
Lapsed policies, value on surrender		1,000 00
		$1,565,959 27
Losses by death, waiting completion of papers		5,811 35
Premiums paid in advance		474 94
Declared profits unpaid		831 97
All other accounts, including Medical Fees, Directors' Fees, etc.		7,338 36
Surrendered Policy waiting majority of beneficiary		217 68
Paid up Capital Stock		80,000 00
Dividend for half year to Dec. 31, 1886		4,800 00
Held to cover cost of collecting premiums outstanding and deferred on Dec. 31, 1886		10,022 48
Surplus		357,632 15
Apportioned as follows:		
To policyholders	$290,420 50	
To shareholders	30,848 22	
Held undistributed as security and to provide for a 4 per cent. basis of valuation	61,364 46	
		$2,032,710 08

Auditors:
JOHN LANGTON,
JOHN M. MARTIN.

J. K. MACDONALD,
Managing Director.

A number of the persons present expressed their great pleasure at the very satisfactory report submitted, and commended the directors and management for the steps taken in providing for the increased security to the policyholders, and also for the large surplus after such ample provision had been made for the requirement of the present law, as well as for the greater requirement under the prospective reduction to the four per cent. basis of valuation.

The usual routine business was taken up and disposed of. The old directors were re-elected, and at a subsequent meeting of the board, Sir W. P. Howland was re-elected president, and the Hon. Wm. McMaster and Wm. Elliott, Esq., were re-elected vice-presidents.

THE YEAR'S BUSINESS.

	Premiums.	Rents, Interest and Profits.	Reserve.
Increase	$36,824 20	$13,019 91	$291,685 77
Assets.		Surplus.	
$338,875 35		$32,348 07	

In the opinion of the Directors, the time has arrived when the rate of interest used in calculating the policy liabilities should be reduced from four and one-half per cent. to four per cent. The large increase in the Reserve, amounting so nearly to $300,000, will indicate how fully provision has been made for the future payments, which are sure to be required. So thoroughly has the necessity for absolute safety been realized by the Board, which, in the face of the greatly reduced rate of interest now (and likely to be) obtainable on first-class investments, can only be assured by reducing the rate of interest, that they have the determined to hold a large sum undistributed. Larger profits to the policyholders at the present time would be but a poor compensation for a possible inability to provide at an early day for the greater liability which will be occasioned by the government compelling the assumption of four per cent. in calculating the Reserves. The Directors mean to be prepared, and will therefore hold for that purpose and for unforseen contingencies the sum of $61,364 46 undistributed.

It will be a cause of satisfaction to the policyholders to learn that one-half of the ten per cent. going to the shareholders, for the year Quinquennium has been given up, as a further contribution to the policyholders, and included in the $61,364.45 as specially reserved. This give practically, ninety-five per cent. of the profits of the Quinquennium to the policyholders.

The Confederation Life has done the Canadian public excellent service in leading upto a measure of liberality on the part of the Insurance companies writingly in contrast with what prevailed before it was established. Only time will tell up to its standard. This association still maintains its place in the van.

It will be seen from the balance sheet that the sum of $320,420.50 has been allocated to the policyholders. To this should be added $10,232.78, which has been paid out to policyholders, making the total profits to the policyholders for the last five years $270,660.28 more than double the profits for the second Quinquennium.

The result cannot fail to prove satisfactory, the more especially as so large a provision has been made for all contingencies under the special amount held as undistributed surplus.

It has also been decided to bring the amount paid on the new shares up to ten per cent, making the old and new alike. This will be done by entering the new shares on the books at $80 instead of $4 on the new shares. This bonus will be declared out of the shareholders' surplus, and will make the paid up capital $100,000, which will still further strengthen the security of the policyholders.

The Directors felt that the time had arrived for the creation of an Actuarial Department, and on the recommendation of the Managing Director, it has been organized.

The valuation of the Policy and Annuity obligations has been made by Mr. D. Parks Fletcher, the well-known Actuary of New York. His certificate will be found appended to the report.

The change decided upon last year in regard to the quinquennial periods goes into effect in 1887, and in future the date of the issue of the policy will determine its quinquennial period. Policies sharing say four years profits now, will, on the settlement of the premium for 1888, become entitled to the profits for 1887, the third year of the policy. Policies in force by larger or shorter periods will similarly become entitled to profits in 1889-90, etc.

The Directors have had the insufficiency of the present office accommodation forced upon them by the rapidly growing business, and have concluded that the time has arrived when the company should possess a building of its own. They have first purchase a suitable site, but finding that impossible, have leased for a period of 42 years, with the right to renew in perpetuity, the site is on the northeast corner of Yonge and Richmond streets. It is proposed to proceed to build as soon as may be prudent, and have the building ready for occupation before the expiry of the lease of the present offices.

The Directors have pleasure in referring to the continued diligence and faithfulness of the office and agency staff.

All the directors retire, but are eligible for re-election.

J. K. MACDONALD, Man. Director. W. P. HOWLAND, President.

CASH STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.

1886. Dec. 31.	Cash on hand and in banks	$ 89,947 86
	REVENUE ITEMS.	
1886. Dec. 31.	Premiums	475,192 43
	Premiums paid in advance	474 94
	Interest	95,285 42
	Rent	3,733 49
	Annuity Premiums	3,050 00
	REPAYMENT OF INVESTMENTS, ETC.	
	Loans on Policies	$ 4,741 27
	" Mortgage	67,841 34
	" Stock	65,866 30
	" Debentures	9,036 00
	Sale of Real Estate	21,170 45
	Debentures matured	34,003 00
		$202,570 36
	Advances to employees, etc.	926 03
	From Sundry sources	816 51
		$870,174 02

EXPENDITURE.

Dec. 31st, 1886.		
	Expenses for year	$105,424 71
	Re-Insurance	4,430 37
	Annuities	2,449 15
	Commission on Loans	1,166 15
	Rent	2,566 30
	Taxes	3,267 60
	Insurance superintendence	367 90
	Returned to policyholders:	
	Claims by death	$91,186 25
	Surrendered policies	11,217 25
	Profits in cash and reduction of premiums	16,601 24
		119,004 74
	Dividends to Stockholders and civic tax on same	10,532 00
	INVESTMENTS, ETC.:	
	Loans on Mortgage, Stocks, Debentures, etc.	537,004 67
	Medons and Wood, Sinking Fund paid off	676 13
	Advances to General Agents for travelling expenses, etc.	684 94
	Advances to employes on security of commission or salary	450 00
	Suspense account and all current accounts	292 00
	Balance on hand Head Office	191 94
	Balance in Banks	84,704 22
		$870,174 02

BALANCE SHEET.

ASSETS.

D