

not "self-evident truths," for several of them were called in question by those who criticized his paper, a document which reflected a good deal of credit on Mr. Powis in his endeavor to throw some new light on this, as yet, unsolved problem. To show how far this desideratum still was from being an accomplished fact, Mr. McLean read the following statement in which an apportionment was made, in the case given by Mr. Lye, by Mr. Rowland, of the "City of London" Mr. Neill, of the "Guardian," Mr. Powis, and the INSURANCE AND FINANCE CHRONICLE; no two of which agreed as to the proper distribution of the loss. Mr. McLean said that the science of apportioning losses could not certainly be called an exact one, which, with the same premises, arrived at different conclusions; as would be seen from the following results arrived at by insurance experts:—

Adjuster.	Bdg. No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.
Mr. Lye says Co. A. pays.....	\$ 803.67	803.67	803.67	1,051.80	1,530.19
Mr. Rowland says Co. A. pays.....	681.00	681.00	959.00	1,055.00	1,591.07
Mr. Neill says Co. A. pays.....	707.93	707.93	797.33	1,000.00	1,000.00
Mr. Powis says Co. A. pays.....	707.87	707.87	797.47	1,013.41	1,743.38
INS. CHRONICLE says Co. A. pays.....	570.40	570.40	749.15	1,105.50	1,591.00
Mr. Lye says Co. C. pays.....	1,494.04	1,494.04	.....	.....	.....
Mr. Rowland says Co. C. pays.....	1,780.00	1,780.00	.....	.....	.....
Mr. Neill says Co. C. pays.....	1,767.84	1,769.84	.....	.....	.....
Mr. Powis says Co. C. pays.....	1,769.66	1,769.56	.....	.....	.....

In a similar manner, Mr. McLean showed that the authorities differed as to the liability of each of the companies B. D. E. and F. Now, the total loss on the five buildings was \$26,250.00. The Cos. were liable according to

Mr. Lye, for only	\$25,676 29
Mr. Rowland for	26,250 00
Mr. Neill "	25,613 33
Mr. Powis "	25,728 98
INS. CHRONICLE for	26,250 00

It will be seen that Mr. Rowland and the INSURANCE CHRONICLE pay the assured his full loss.

Mr. Lye makes the assured lose.....	\$573 71
Mr. Neill " " "	636 67
Mr. Powis " " "	521 12

It is evident from the above that there exists, even among experts, a great difference of opinion as to the proper mode of apportioning losses among companies on non-concurrent policies. If the Institute of Accountants be the means of ascertaining a true plan of settling such losses, they will deserve much credit. At present, the adjuster who is fortunate enough to be the first to settle the claim chooses the mode of apportionment most favorable to the company he represents. An American adjuster of great experience, in speaking of the different rules applied to the apportionment of such losses said:—"I have been for all the rules and don't know where I stand—get converted to a new way at every fire."

FIRE SURVEYS.

(From the Review, London, Eng.)

Mr. Charles E. Goad is well and honorably known on the other side of the Atlantic as a surveyor whose plans of the various buildings and risks in which fire insurance companies are interested are entitled to the highest respect. Mr. Goad has done such useful work on the American side of the water that he has not unreasonably assumed that he might find an opening for his great talents on this side. He has, therefore, commenced a series of plans of fire risks in London, some of which we have had the pleasure of inspecting. The London fire offices, or, at least, some of them, have been in the possession of some very useful plans

of this class, and these have been endorsed by constant and vigilant surveys. It has been with the greatest difficulty, however, that many of even our best offices have avoided a concentration of undesirable risks, both in quality and the magnitude of the lines carried. Any assistance given by the plans prepared by Mr. Goad will be welcomed by English offices. At the same time, however, whilst a new series of maps cannot be other than useful, it does not follow that the old ones be discarded. Information is cheap at any price, and, even though a fresh set of plans may be sometimes superfluous to a few offices, yet it is a wise thing to possess all the new ideas which can be brought to bear on the subject of the complex nature of fire insurance. It is by no means improbable that the approach of the subject of fire surveys by a new mind, and from a new standpoint, may reveal to many fire managers some interesting and novel details, even of a business that some of them have studied so deeply. It is to be hoped that Mr. Goad will be encouraged to persevere in his scheme, and that he will receive all the support he deserves.

AMERICAN LIFE COMPANIES.

We have prepared some tables showing in brief space the position of the principal American Life Offices at the end of 1885, and how they compare with each other in progress. We would have preferred to include all the twenty-nine companies reporting to the State of New York, but for the sake of space have been compelled to leave out those in which Canadians are not so much interested. The tables are self-explanatory.

ASSETS OF AMERICAN LIFE COMPANIES.

Company.	Assets.	Rank in regard to Assets.	Increase in Assets over previous year.	Rank in regard to increase over previous year's Assets.	Per cent of total increase over previous year's Assets.
Mutual	\$168,431,779	1	\$ 4,848,478	3	4.7
New York	66,515,406	2	7,573,667	2	12.9
Equitable	65,547,594	3	7,998,878	1	13.9
Connecticut Mut.	51,374,075	4	947,367	7	1.8
Mut. Benefit N.Y.	39,625,995	5	1,18,599	6	2.6
Etina	30,499,568	6	816,582	8	2.7
North Western	24,238,046	7	1,740,273	4	7.7
Phoenix Mut.	10,500,242	12	—37,628	28	—4
Travelers	6,279,951	16	459,268	12	10.6
Union Mutual	6,109,619	17	—201,783	29	—3.2
United States	5,425,264	19	4270,852	18	5.2
Metropolitan	2,781,954	23	480,951	15	20.9
Provid't Savings	217,881	29	43,554	26	24.8

Total of all Cos. \$523,664,678 .. \$32,179,959 .. 6.5

The second portion of this table is especially interesting. Those Companies which rank higher in regard to the year's increase in assets than they do in regard to total assets, are evidently making their way more and more to the front.

SURPLUS TO POLICYHOLDERS.

Company.	Surplus.	Rank in regard to surplus.	Increase in Surplus during year.
Equitable	\$16,473,179	1	\$ 3,020,937
Mutual	13,303,569	2	1,281,556
New York	13,215,047	3	3,518,474
Connecticut Mutual	7,747,563	4	412,557
Etina	6,741,368	5	360,645
North Western	5,490,118	6	623,459
Mutual Benefit	5,450,563	7	36,971
Phoenix Mutual	1,478,156	14	41,176
Travelers	1,261,081	15	140,005
United States	894,243	19	198,360
Metropolitan	706,382	21	93,262
Union Mutual	696,202	22	—22,032
Provident Savings	119,797	28	+ 9,334

Total of all Companies... \$92,749,487 \$10,938,296

The above figures are taken from the New York Report and are based on a $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. standard. It will be seen that the greatest advances were made, as would naturally be expected by the Tontine Companies.