

of manufacturers, such as reductions in steel for the manufacture of carriage springs, tools; scrap iron reduced to \$1 per ton, etc. If the manufacturers will give the consumer the benefit of the advantage arising from cheaper raw material, there will be no reason to complain.

THE ONTARIO MUTUAL.

The annual report of the Ontario Mutual Life Assurance company, presented at the recent annual meeting of the company, shows that another year of prosperity has been experienced by this well known company. The business of the past year shows new business written and accepted, \$2,638,250, an income of \$760,403.24; assets of \$3,404,907, and insurance in force of \$20,000,000. The Ontario Mutual has never made a great spread, and it has sometimes been charged with being too conservative. At the same time the company has always done a prosperous and steadily expanding business. Its affairs have been managed on sound principles and its conservatism has been the kind which has ensured the best results to its policy holders. It is not the number of millions of new business added each year which will count with thinking people so much as the security offered and the results attained in dividends, and in these latter respects the Ontario Mutual makes a good showing.

The business of the company in Manitoba is in charge of P. D. McKinnon, whose management has added materially to the popularity of the company here. He is assisted by S. J. Drake, cashier, and Casper Killer, of Winnipeg, and Dr. More, of Brandon, as general agents.

SUN LIFE.

The marked progress of Canadian Life Insurance companies during late years has shown the growing preference of Canadians for Canadian institutions. There has been nothing in American or English companies to make them less desirable than they have always been; but the home companies, notwithstanding, have gained in favor. This has been followed by rapid growth, which in itself further invites confidence. The Sun Life Insurance Company is one of the foremost examples of this growth, its advance within recent years having been very great. The extending of its operations to Great Britain, the United States and other countries was not a mere act of ambition, but the result of careful calculation, which has been amply justified.

The cash income of the Company last year was \$1,880,258, an excess of \$335,572 over the previous twelve months. The assets, as determined by

Government authority, are \$8,388,144, and the net surplus \$595,902. These figures give plain evidence of stability and progress, and the outgo for death claims, which fell short of the calculated average, expected from the experience of companies generally by \$104,359, is equally conclusive as to the careful selection of risks by the Company. The two conditions of energetic prosecution of business and carefulness of management infallibly produce the prosperity which the Sun is always able to exhibit to its policy holders. The increase of business for the year was large, being \$9,741,258. The total insurance in force at the end of the year was \$38,196,890, an immense liability which justifies and requires the care to provide by its investment for meeting claims as they fall due, which the Sun has always shown; and which is the secret of the confidence it inspires.

The management of the company's affairs in the West is in the hands of Mr. Thomas Gilroy, of this city, who is one of the oldest, if not the oldest officer of the Company in Canada.

THE CHEESE OUTPUT.

There is some difference of opinion as to the probable make of cheese in Manitoba this year. The increased attention given to butter has led some to suppose that the make of cheese would be reduced. This is by no means a necessary sequence. A party who has special means of forming a close opinion on this point, writes The Commercial as follows:

To the Editor of the Commercial.

Sir,—We do not think, in spite of what has been said in the press, that the cheese production of Manitoba will be materially reduced this season as some of the factories which are not operated this season, produced a very limited quantity of cheese last season, and because they are in a measure replaced by the opening of new factories in other parts of the province. We ought to buy small cheese at a reasonable figure this season, because quite a number of small factories have been started this spring, and in the parish of St. Eustache alone eight of such factories will be operated during the present season. Produce dealers shipped a lot of cheese to Montreal in the latter part of April and left the local market bare. Hence the good price obtained for early made cheese.

On to Yukon.

Vancouver, June 14.—The British Yukon Chartered company has already begun the work of trail cutting and surveying for a short thirty-five miles line of railroad. Meanwhile the parties who are now making for the Yukon report that the journey is exceedingly arduous and only to be made safely by the very sturdy. No well organized parties are now making for the Yukon from Vancouver and

Winnipeg respectively, and are well on their way to this difficult land of promise. A big body of surveyors and assistants is also en route under the auspices of the Chartered company.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, B. C., June 14.—The prophecy The Commercial made some months ago that mining speculation would adversely affect legitimate trade in British Columbia and that the money taken out of legitimate channels by merchants for the purchase of mining stocks would cause many of them to be seriously pinched financially is coming true. Up to the present time the strain has not been felt, but this week with the depression in mining stocks and the collapse of several much advertised mines, there seems to be considerable want of confidence in the mercantile communities, all the more apparent owing to the rosy hopefulness which for the past year has taken possession of British Columbia. A reaction has come. Many think it will be only very brief, but at present collections are very hard to make and merchants report trade dull. Two failures have been chronicled in Vancouver and money is tight.

It has been stated that never before has there been so much deposited in the savings banks of British Columbia. On enquiry it has been ascertained that the large bulk of this deposit is in the name of wives of poor people who are putting small savings by for a rainy day.

Abundant rain has been falling lately on the seaboard and the usual crop is assured. In Cariboo and Lillooet grasshoppers have become sufficiently numerous to rather alarm the farmers.

In the Okanagan district the wheat crop will be light owing to drought. As there is a greater acreage of crop sown this year, however, than last it is expected that the entire crop will be larger.

Manitoba butter has entirely taken the place of the California article.

Small fruit is very abundant in B. C. this year.

The Rigby Water-proofing company of America, head office in New York, of which company Messrs. H. Shorey & Co. wholesale clothiers, of Montreal, own a controlling interest, have recently made a contract to proof the product of the Botany Mills, Passaic, N. J.

Mrs. Jenness Miller, of Washington, D. C., the lady who is devoting her life and best efforts to the women's dress reform movement, in a recent lecture delivered in Chicago said, in speaking of the Rigby Process for water-proofing textile fabrics, that, "Every woman who has a regard for her health and personal comfort should have her out-of-door garments proofed by the Rigby Process, which, although impervious to rain permitted the free respiration of the skin and allowed the air to pass freely through the fabric." She demonstrated this fact to her audience by having a pall of water brought on the stage, and making a tank of the folds of her skirt and having the water poured into it, then allowing it to run off, shaking the garment and exhibiting to her audience the fact that it was perfectly dry.