

(*assurance en cas de décès pour la vie entière*), and to reserve the sum assured intact for those for whom it was intended, a part of the 1000 francs which may be drawn by the assured at the annual drawing—the amount will vary according to the age of the assured will be applied to the purchase of a new policy for 1000 francs payable at death and entirely free from the payment of premiums.—*London Finance Chronicle and Insurance Circular.*

Life Assurance, as a national institution, has attained a progress and perfection far surpassing the most sanguine hopes of its benevolent founders of fifty years ago. But that the system is yet perfect, or that its final stages of development will soon be reached, he would be a bold man that would say. In fact there is a tendency in some quarters, and notably by one of our more eminent actuaries, to adopt principles, in working the business of their offices, which by the prudent—we had almost said sacred—founders and patrons of the system would be pronounced heterodox and revolutionary in the extreme. One of the chief of these modern principles—advanced opinions of the present day—is that held regarding the commission which an office is justified in allowing to agents for the introduction of new business. We will not enter into the merits of the question just now; in fact with such a variety of opinions prevailing among eminent actuaries of leading companies it would seem folly for an outsider to interfere. The cause of our adverting to the matter at all at present is a remark by a valued correspondent on the subject. Writing in reply to our communication he says: "Just fancy the Association, allowed on all hands to be a first rate office (and hitherto managed very economically) offering commissions to ordinary agents which will amount to about 49 per cent. of the first year's premiums. As one of the Association's officials said to me the other day, F—— (naming the manager) would sell his soul for new business." Speaking for ourselves we must say that the case of this manager is rather beyond our comprehension. We are certain he is unique among his fellows—and forms a subject for psychological enquiry. Sprague, we know, offers one per cent. on the sum assured to ordinary agents; but Sprague although much of an Ishmaelite is not the Esau among life insurance managers. He is an ordinary mortal, and is contented with his salary and with the results which his liberal terms to agents brings to his office. Can nothing be done to that other manager referred to, to prevent his soul—on fire as it is about the uninsured condition of his fellowmen—from parting into fragments with the introduction of every new policy to his office? The case is not a hopeless one. If he would only indicate at how many new policies, or at what amount he appreciates his soul, the problem would be simplified very much.—*Idem.*

THE LAKE SHORE PRESS.—Many people in the Dominion to whom the name of John Lovell has been synonymous with the publication of Canadian books, for nearly half a century, have little or no idea of the magnitude of the

business now transacted by the Lovell Printing and Publishing Company, on both sides of the line. On Saturday last we had the pleasure of visiting and examining in detail the premises erected for the Company somewhat over a year ago at Rouses Point, New York, in order to enable them to compete in the printing and binding of American and other publications. It would seem as though all the best printing and publishing establishments in the United States and elsewhere had been visited before furnishing the spacious and elegant structure, and the best features of each adopted. All the latest approved advantages in machinery, presses, drying room, and everything that constitutes a gigantic first-class establishment may be seen here, and working with a noiselessness which surprises the beholder. We are glad to notice this effort of Canadian enterprise, an example already profitably adopted by one of our leading insurance Companies, and about to be followed by another, of extending their business into United States territory. The letter press and specimens of bookbinding in hand at the establishment last Saturday equal anything we ever saw from the best European and American houses. The Company has hitherto confined itself to the printing and binding of books, etc., for American publishers, but is now making arrangements to enter the field as competitors in publishing the works of standard and popular British authors for the American market, and for the sale of which they have the American and Canadian markets.

The establishment of the Lake Shore Press has been a valuable boon to the people of the town, not alone because of the large number of hands employed, but through the good works indirectly connected with the business of the establishment, among which we may mention, in the main building, a public reading room and library, where all who come may profitably spend their evenings. The buildings are delightfully situated on the Shore of Lake Champlain. They are lighted with gas made on the premises, and supplied with water from the Lake. We have little doubt that in the course of time the name which every schoolboy in Canada has become familiar with from the title pages of his text books will be no less popular among our transatlantic cousins, and be known as favorably by his future useful publications.

CROP PROSPECTS.

The McKillop, Sprague Company, proprietors of the Commercial Agency, are publishing a series of reports as to the condition of the crops all over the continent, beginning with the more southern States, and coming north according as the season advances. Reports from Texas include about sixty counties in that State. The products of those counties are chiefly wheat, corn, cotton, oats, some sugar, and in a few, fruits of various kinds. The area under cultivation is greater in every instance than ever before. In several counties the increase will be fully 20 per cent., though, with one or two exceptions, the increase is wholly under grain, while the acreage under cotton is in many counties less than last year. In only two counties is there any complaint respecting the condition and prospects of the wheat crop, and that is, "slightly injured by rust." The harvesting of the crop has commenced; in some counties it is about over, and the result is very favourable. Some report the yield per acre not as great as last year, but the increase of area will much more than cover the deficiency.

Corn is rapidly maturing, and unless a severe drouth should come within the next ten days the crop will be the largest the State has ever

produced. It is yet too early to report on the cotton crop with any degree of certainty. Thus far, however, the condition and prospects are very good. Never better. Unless arrested by drouth the crop will undoubtedly be good. In some counties the unfavourable weather in April has made the crop later than usual. The conclusion to be reached from all is: the year promises to be one of great agricultural prosperity. The farm labourers are working well and the farmers in excellent spirits. Oats and barley are being harvested in good condition, but fruit is almost a failure.

A SUCCESSFUL BROKER.—We understand that Mr. Chas. Bossé, insurance broker and sub-agent of Stadacona, has secured the placing of two large risks, viz: the Provincial Government of Quebec and Richelieu and Ontario Company's steamers (eastern division.) The premiums aggregate nearly \$12,000. Every little helps these times.

ASSIGNMENTS IN ONTARIO FOR THE PAST WEEK.

Alex. McDougall, tailor, Alexandria.
Erastus Dufée, general store and hotel, Aultsville.
Andrew Henderson, books, &c., Newmarket.
Robert Stewart, Petawawa.
G. M. Paterson, Guelph.
D. J. Campbell, general store, Bath.

WRITS OF ATTACHMENT ISSUED.

Henry W. Brown, Stratford.
Geo. Klien, Stratford.
John Walker, livery, London.
Hugh McPhee, Stratford.
S. B. Richardson, shoes, &c., South Mountain.
Thos. Pearce, general store, Mount Brydges.
W. A. Doyle, marble works, Fingal.
Lancelfield Bros., books, &c., Hamilton.
R. W. Marshall, builder, Toronto.
Brasier, Chatband & Co., straw hat manufacturers, Toronto.
Morris & McMichael, general store, Blenheim.

ASSIGNMENTS IN PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

J. & P. Coyne, general store, Portage du Fort.
Alex. McLaughlin, hardware, Montreal.
Malouin & Garant, furriers, Quebec.
Maurice Nangle, grocer, Montreal.
Sentenne, Howison & Massue, wholesale crockery, Montreal.

WRITS OF ATTACHMENT.

J. & P. Coyne, general store, Portage du Fort.
N. A. Boivin, grocer and hardware, St. Hyacinthe.
W. B. Wells, general store, Mansonville.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the *Journal of Commerce*:

DEAR SIR.—Please to correct a wrong impression arising from the telegraph report of companies interested in the St. Johns fire; the Agricultural Insurance Company mentioned in the list is not the Ottawa Agricultural Insurance Company; this company had no risks on the property destroyed in St. Johns.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,

G. H. PATTERSON,

General Agent,

Ottawa Agricultural Ins. Co.

Montreal, 20th June, 1876.

Commercial.

MONTREAL GENERAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, JUNE 29th, 1876.

The prospect of war in Eastern Europe does not seem to have had more than a momentary influence on markets, but Consols have felt the pressure to a certain extent; it is possible that the uncertainty about crops in all the grain producing countries may have held speculation in doubt just now, as the withdrawal of Eastern Europe from the grain trade for a time might be compensated by her own premature shipments of old wheat, but there is also room for supposing that some other fields might make up for the deficiency. On the other hand, a fall