

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE RETURNS.

CITY.	May '86	May '85	Inc or Dec
Montreal customs.	\$542,944	\$603,307	60,363D
do. excise ..	68,870	221,002	152,132D
Toronto customs.	258,048	187,139	70,909 I
do. excise ..	13,251	531,466	518,215D
Halifax customs.	63,082	99,550	36,468D
do. excise ..	7,010	20,630	13,620D
St. John customs.	76,579	84,063	7,484D
do. excise ..	7,822	30,023	22,201D
Hamilton customs.	48,479	54,128	5,648D
do. excise ..	13,460	62,717	49,257D
London customs.	28,394	22,622	5,772 I
do. excise ..	.....	.....	.....
Ottawa customs.	15,574	.....	.....
do. excise ..	11,984	.....	.....
Quebec customs.	82,426	110,401	27,975D
do. excise ..	11,147	53,143	41,996D
Kingston customs.	12,641	8,509	4,132 I
do. excise ..	3,700	16,464	12,764D
Guelph customs.	4,330	4,676	346D
do. excise ..	.....	42,486	.....
St. Catharines ..	6,330	.....	.....
do. excise ..	1,492	.....	.....
Belleville customs.	2,774	7,959	5,185D
do. excise ..	.....	.....	.....
Brantford customs	8,031	8,652	621D
do excise ..	3,260	7,931	4,671D

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The sixtieth annual general meeting of the Standard Life Assurance Company was held in Edinburgh on Tuesday, the 11th of May, 1886, to declare the results of the business for the past year, and to receive the report on the investigation of the company's affairs and division of profits for the five years ended 15th November, 1885.

The following results for the year ended 15th November, 1885, were reported:

2,732 new proposals for life assurance were received during the year	\$ 7,348,859 00
2,403 proposals were accepted, assuring	6,132,666 78
The total existing assurances in force at 15th November 1885, amounted to	\$100,007,401 20

Of which sum \$7,399,732.60 was reassured with other offices.

The claims during the year amounted, including bonus additions, to	2,653,292 06
The annual revenue amounted at 15th November, 1885, to	4,369,634 00
The accumulated funds at same date amounted to	32,085,801 93

Being an increase during the year of

Amount of assurances accepted 1880-85, 11,925 policies for

Amount of assurances accepted 1875-80, 9,409 policies for

Increase during present quinquennium, 2,516 policies for. 2,535,893 40

After setting aside a guarantee fund of £40,000 from the profits of the previous five years a bonus was declared at the rate of 28s. per cent. per annum, being an increase of 4s. per cent. per annum above the rate declared at last investigation.

With an intermediate bonus at the rate of 20s. per cent. per annum for policies of ten years' standing becoming claims between 15th November, 1886, and 15th November, 1890.

A HINT TO EMPLOYERS.

Prudent employers of labour find it good policy to stimulate the inventive faculties of mechanics by offering premiums to their skilled workmen. The well-known iron ship-builders, Messrs. Denny & Co., of Dumbarton, initiated such a system, and it is likely to find imitators among the British iron trade. The Carron Iron Company have issued a notice to their workmen announcing a system of premiums or rewards for those who introduce any new or improved tool, machine, or process into the works. A committee will examine the invention and apportion the rewards, which may vary from £1 to £10, according to the merit of the discovery. In the case of inven-

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A. T. Fulton. W. Y. Selleck.
T. G. Blackstock. R. W. Sutherland, Sec.-Treas.

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tions which are considered worthy of being patented, the committee will report the matter to the Carron Company, who will be prepared, if they endorse the opinion of the committee, to render financial aid, provided they have the refusal of the invention on terms to be agreed upon. The prolific inventor is encouraged by the offer of an extra premium or bonus after every reward, amounting to about 40 per cent. of his previous receipts. "This excellent plan," says the *Hardware Trade Journal*, "will no doubt prove advantageous both to masters and men. The former will find that the thinking, intelligent mechanics will gravitate to their works when they can find a recognition of their efforts, while many a young man whose thoughts during working hours were formerly occupied in looking forward to the beer and skittles of the evening, will now find a pleasure in examining every process in which he participates, with a view to its improvement."

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