TEN YEARS OF THE MUTUAL RESERVE FUND.

Although last year the Mutual Reserve Fund gained some twenty millions of insurance in force, its average cost to members keeps advancing, and is greater than that of old-line term insurance. New blood, while it postpones the inevitable disintegration of the assessment scheme, does not prevent mortality cost from advancing. We follow this company's record of cost for ten years, 1883 to 1892 inclusive. This indicates that in 1883 the average age of the members was 35 years, and that in 1892 it was nearly 48 years, or that in ten years the average age increased nearly thirteen years. We also exhibit the old-line annual term insurance rates, beginning with rate $12.85 for age thirty-five. In the ten years this old-line cost increases to only $15.55 per thousand dollars of insurance, while the Mutual Reserve cost increases to $17.48 per thousand. The old-line average for the ten years is only $14.01 against $15.52 for the Mutual Reserve average. Beginning at age 35 an old-line company will furnish $1,000 of insurance through twenty years for $16.97 per year, covering to age fifty-five. In only ten years the Mutual Reserve rate reaches $17.48. From this it would seem that its system must be inequitable and unscientific, and that in it the young and the middle-aged are paying too much, while the old are paying too little. Eight years ago, this company was practicing quite the reverse by trying to carry age 25 for $9.92 per thousand, and age 48 for $13.76, while it should have charged the latter age about $18. It was then bearing down hard enough on the old, but was letting off the young and the middle-aged too easy. What its plan] will be a year or two from now, none can guess. Its 1890 statement to the Missouri Department showed that it had over ninety-one million dollars of contracts on ages ranging from 45 to 75. From all these facts, our impression is that the Mutual Reserve Fund's problem is growing harder to solve to a long-continued solvency. It contains lots of shrewdness, but it also must contain an over-weight of old age. We are more than willing to hope that it may be able to so reorganize its system as to meet the inevitably heavy claims of the coming years and not go down. However, we present the exhibit as follows:

Old-Line Yearly Term Rates.	Years.	Av·rage Cost per $1,000 to Members of Mutual Reserve Fund.	Mutual Reserve Fund's Mean Insurance in Force.
$12 85	1883	$12 89	$ 49,259,625
13 05	1884	12 64	74,390,250
13 25	1885	15 05	104,403,050
13 50	1886	13 46	136,764,375
13 75	1887	15 43	153,364,675
14 05	1888	16 30	162,728,475
14 35	1889	17 31	175,130,525
14 70	1890	17 37	189,180,817
15 10	1891	17 34	206,105,672
15 55	1892	17 48	225,814,850
Average	10 years	Average	
14 01		15 52	

—*Western Insurance Review.*

P. B. ARMSTRONG'S NEW LIFE COMPANY.

Mr. P. B. Armstrong, widely known throughout the country on account of his aggressive management of the "Armstrong trio" of fire insurance companies, is now actively at work organizing the "North American Life Insurance Company of New York." He intends that it shall have a capital of $1,000,000.

Mr. Armstrong, when seen recently, said: "The company will be organized for the purpose of establishing a system of permanent reform and economy in the methods of conducting life insurance. There will be no assessments, and the company will fix rates so low as to preclude the possibility of accumulating the large cash assets possessed by a number of the leading life insurance companies which no human being will ever live to see divided."

The North American would, he said, furnish life insurance, pure and simple, and sell its policies as fire insurance policies are now sold. It is proposed before beginning business to secure 500 charter members, each to agree to take $50,000 insurance in the company immediately upon its organization, and also to admit such other charter members under like conditions for smaller amounts, as circumstances may warrant.

When asked about the forms of policies, Mr. Armstrong stated that "the company will issue no 'Tontine,' 'Bond' or 'Distribution' policies called by such or any other name whatever." An interesting feature is a plan whereby every charter member will not only receive low rates, but a general agent's commission contract also, both as to original premiums and all renewals.

As to the rates, Mr. Armstrong said: "While exact rates can be fixed only by the Board of Trustees, not yet elected, the saving by this company over the regular life insurance companies, on 'Life' and 'Renewable Term' policies, will approximate 45 per cent. of the first year's premium, and 25 per cent. of every annual premium thereafter."

It was learned from good authority that the rates approximate the reduced rates offered by the Mutual Life of New York some ten or fifteen years ago. Mr. Armstrong tells us that the company will have a notably strong Board of Trustees.—*Jour. of Commerce and Commercial Bulletin.*

DRUGGISTS MEET.

The Pharmaceutical Association of the Province of Quebec held their twenty-third annual meeting in Montreal, on the 14th June. The report of the council and the annual statement of the treasurer were both regarded as satisfactory, the latter showing a cash balance of $2,348 on hand. The secretary was authorized to correspond with the various associations of the Dominion, with a view to obtaining united action in approaching the Federal Government for the purpose of defining the position of druggists in relation to the standard pharmacopœias to be used in the Dominion. Also, to obtain their views upon the desirability of forming a Dominion Pharmaceutical Association, similar to the American Pharmaceutical Association of the United States.

The council for the year 1893-94 will consist of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Henry R. Gray, Joseph Contant, A. E. Duberger, David Watson, L. A. Bernard, Ed. Giroux, jr., R. W. Williams, Alex. Manson, A. D. Mann, Rod. Carriere, A. LaRue, and C. E. Scharff.

—The annual meeting of the British Columbia Pharmaceutical Association was held on the 6th ult., in New Westminster. A successful report was presented, and the following officers for this year elected:—President, Mr. H. McDowell, Vancouver; vice-president, Mr. Henderson, Victoria; secretary-treasurer, Mr. Chas. Nelson, Vancouver.

—The Dominion Bridge Company, of Montreal, has passed a dividend of six per cent. The following board of directors were re-elected:—Mr. James Ross, president; Mr. J. P. Dawes, vice-president; Messrs. R. B. Angus, Duncan McIntyre, T. G. Holt, James Cooper and S. Donaldson, directors.

—The following have been elected officers of the Great Northern Insurance Guarantee Company, Winnipeg, for the coming year:—D. E. Sprague, president; Archibald Wright and R. P. Roblin, vice-presidents; L. L. Smith, manager, and R. D. Bathgate, secretary.

CONDITION OF THE WOOL TRADE.

Wool has never before been so low in the history of the trade, says the *American Wool Reporter*. Medium wools have reached free trade prices, and the fine wools are getting there. This is the natural and therefore the logical result of a combination of causes, either one of which would exert a depressing influence upon the market. These may be thus summarized:—1. Lack of mercantile confidence. 2. Monetary stringency. 3. Apprehension of legislation adverse to the agricultural and manufacturing industries. 4. The backward spring. Confidence is the indispensable basis of any satisfactory business. For more than a decade the financial policy of the country has been ill-advised and devoid of ordinary business prudence; notably has this been so since the passage of the Sherman Act of 1890. The effect of this measure was foreseen by business men, West as well as East, who have in general exercised great caution; and if the business instinct of some mercantile men did not render them conservative, the action of the banks in curtailing credits has made conservatism a necessity with these. One can see that this would have the effect in the wool market, for example, to restrict the number of buyers, and indifference of buyers would itself be a cause of depression of values. We may say, then, that general lack of confidence and curtailment of credit—effects of our bad financial policy—have been a leading cause in producing the "peculiar situation" in which the wool market finds itself.

UNITED STATES BREWING COMPANY.

The report of the directors states that the sales for the year were about 94,000 barrels in excess of the yearly sales shown in the prospectus, and the profits, after writing off £22,500 for depreciation, making full reserve for doubtful debts, and charging repairs and renewals, amount to £106,607. The London expenses being deducted, and profit on exchange and transfer fees added, there is a balance of profit, including the sum brought forward from last year's accounts, of £105,996. The interest on the debentures requires £24,000, leaving a net profit of £81,996. Out of this sum the payment of the dividend on the preference shares amounts to £28,000, and the usual interim dividend of 10s. per share was paid on the ordinary shares on January 1 last, leaving a sum of £36,496 to be dealt with. The directors recommend that out of this amount £15,000 should be added to the reserve account, increasing it to £57,000, and that a further dividend of 10s. per share be paid on the ordinary shares, making a distribution of 10 per cent., free of income tax, for the year covered by the accounts; and, after providing for income tax, a balance of £2,690 is carried to next year's accounts.—*Economist, 24th June.*

STANDING OF INDIA COTTON MILLS.

The Bombay mills have been grouped by the *Indian Textile Journal* according to the premium or discount values of their shares. From this classification it appears of 46 companies named that 13 are at premiums averaging 33 per cent., and 33 are at discounts averaging 35 per cent., or a net average for each of the 46 companies of 15.8 per cent. discount. On the capitals of the 13 companies the average premium of 33 per cent. represents a gain of 43 lacs. On 32 of the 33 discount companies the average discount of 35 per cent. represents a loss of nearly 101 lacs, so that the market value of the capitals of the 45 companies combined is less by 58 lacs than the shareholders originally paid. Among the discount companies, some are very modern mills, and there is no apparent reason why they should be in the unenviable position which they occupy, when 13 other companies have their shares at the high premium of 33 per cent.

A PROPER REBUKE.

The Prince of Wales not long ago was one of a large house party at a place in the English midlands, his host being a very well known peer. After dinner the royal guest, the host and the other male visitors repaired to the billiard room. On a table at the side were two or three boxes of cigars, and the prince was helping himself to one, when an ambitious millionaire approached him, and taking from his pocket a cigar case held it out to the prince, saying:

"I think, sir, you will find these better."

"Mr. ——, if a man's dinner is good enough for me, his cigars are good enough for me."

The maladroit millionaire was unexpectedly called away to town next morning on business.

—At a meeting of the B.C. Fruit Growers' Association, Mr. O'Kell, of Victoria, said that the fruit wanted was the same as grown in California, with which they were competing. British Columbia had come to the front with its salmon and would soon be known by its fruit, which was superior to Californian. Men need not be afraid to plant, as the canners would take everything good that offered. He had received word from a merchant in England that the samples of B. C. fruit sent were the best ever seen there, and if it could be sold at popular prices, the demand would be almost unlimited. He had received similar answers from others, who could handle 20,000 cases yearly if they could be supplied. Bartlet pears were always in demand, and large quantities of apricots, peaches, greengages and golden egg plums were required.