

placed now at less than \$1 to 1.50. So important a change as this has not been general, but enough is known to prove that more rational views of the subject prevail for the time being. In farm and isolated property there is a great deal of competition, and some strange anomalies exist. The stock companies, who, until within a recent period, left farm risks chiefly to the Mutuals, are now bidding actively against them. Term policies are the rule, and they are issued at low rates; so low that, in our way of thinking, it would require a very powerful microscope to discover any money in the business. Rows of small frame dwellings, miles of which may be seen on our streets, are being taken in some cases at non-hazardous rates. This is a most unjustifiable innovation. There are two such rows on Beech street, about thirty feet apart, one of which pays the old rate of 1½ per cent. per annum, while the other is done for three years for precisely the same money. It is apparent that somebody is badly cheated in these transactions; if a row of frame structures can be profitably insured for one-half per cent., the whole business as at present conducted, is grossly unfair to the public. Nothing is better established in fire insurance than the fact that a company can live at such rates; if it does survive, the reason will be, that other risks are overcharged to make up the deficiency. We regret to say that there is a great deal too much of this robbing Peter-to-pay-Paul style of business being transacted. It tends to bring fire insurance into disrepute, and to shake the confidence of the public in the integrity and fairness of insurance management. Companies should fix their rates solely with reference to the hazard assumed, and then show firmness and independence enough to compel their agents to adhere to them.

"LIFE INSURANCE IN THE UNITED STATES."

—We have received from the author some sample pages of a new work with the above title, now in course of preparation by Mr. C. C. Hine, editor of the *Insurance Monitor*. The complete work will extend to about 500 pages. The sample is beautifully printed on fine tinted paper, and in bold, readable type. The first chapter is devoted to a sketch of the origin and growth of Life Insurance in Europe, and is subdivided under various headings, comprising the leading features in the history of the rise and growth of the system which has so firmly rooted itself upon our civilization, and which plays so important a part in our social economy. We shall not at present attempt to follow the author further, but await the appearance of the finished work which, by the way, is to be finely illustrated. It should be added that we notice some defects of style, and would direct Mr.

Hine's special attention to the second and third paragraphs on page 9, where by looking closely he will discover a good deal that is susceptible of improvement.

PORT MAGAZINE ALMANAC.—This useful publication for 1872 is before us, and contains, besides much general information, a complete list of the insurance companies of Great Britain, with the names of their directors and officers; names of the members of the Institute of Actuaries; projected insurance companies, and companies winding up; also comparative rates of premiums to life insurance.

—The Royal Canadian Bank have opened an agency at Belleville, with Mr. R. W. Dean as Manager.

Insurance.

FIRE RECORD.—Norwich, Ont., Jan. 29.—A most disastrous fire occurred here yesterday, destroying fifteen buildings. It commenced in the foundry of James Barr, and soon the entire building, including the shop of John H. Walker, watchmaker, was wrapped in flames. The fire then reached to Mrs. Wright's millinery shop on the west, and almost simultaneously D. W. Miller & Co's store on the east, after which it spread with such alarming rapidity that at one time fears were entertained that the entire village would be destroyed, and but for the great exertions of the inhabitants, assisted by numbers from the country who came to attend church, such would doubtless have been the case. The heaviest losers are James Barr and G. Moore, who owned most of the buildings burned. The following are the losses as nearly as can be estimated:—James Barr, foundry and stores, \$9,000; insured in the Niagara District for \$3,000. G. Moore, post office and stores \$5,000; insured in the Commercial Union for \$1,200. D. W. Miller & Co., injury to stock \$3,000; insured in the Gore and Waterloo for \$2,000. R. A. Duncan, damage to goods \$5,000; insured in the Royal, Lancashire and Citizens. Charles Sackreder, damage \$1,000; insured in the Provincial. Haken & Co's loss on burning \$1,000; insured \$400. Damage to stock \$500; insured for \$300 in the Provincial. Drs. J. & J. A. Carroll, loss on building, \$1,000; insurance \$600. Damage to stock \$500, covered by insurance in the Waterloo Mutual. Joseph Will, damage to stock \$600; insured for \$600 in the Gore. Hand & Co., damage to stock \$100; no insurance; D. Roddy, damage to furniture, \$200; no insurance. J. Venable's goods saved. John Duncan, township clerk's office-books and papers, saved. Jno. F. Yates' stock saved. W. H. Bradley & Co's stock saved. Mrs. Wright, damage to stock and furniture, \$200; no insurance. J. Clark, damage to stock \$500; insured \$400 in the Gore. G. C. Boomer, damage to stock \$400; insured in the Waterloo. N. Brady, damage to Bleakley House \$1,000; no insurance. G. A. Smith, damage to furniture \$100; no insurance. S. F. Bungay, damage to stock \$300; insured in the Beaver. H. Stevenson, loss of tools \$50; no insurance. John H. Walker, stock saved. W. W. Nelles, buildings, loss unknown. In almost every instance, the greater part of the contents were removed, though in a very dangerous condition.

GEORGETOWN, Jan. 31.—Dayfoot's Tannery was burned to-night at six o'clock. Nothing saved; partially insured; cause not known.

Quebec, January.—The stables connected with the Beauport Asylum, were consumed; loss is partly covered by insurance.

Quebec, January 23.—A fire occurred by which

Cornell's saddlery was damaged to the extent of \$300—not insured.

Blyth, January 26.—A fire broke out at the rear of the store occupied by Mr. T. G. Holmes, Blyth. Much of Mr. Holmes' goods were damaged; the building was destroyed. His loss will be very heavy; he was insured in the Gore.

Hespeler, Jan. 20.—A frame dwelling, owned and occupied by Gideon Ochs, was destroyed this morning. The furniture was mostly saved. Loss about \$600. Insured in the Waterloo Mutual for \$350.

New Glasgow, P. E. Island, January 3.—A barn, stable, and other property, owned by Wm. Bagnall, were destroyed; loss about \$4,000; no insurance.

Belleville, Jan. 23.—A fire broke out in Marchmont House, which was occupied by Miss Macpherson as the Boys' Home, totally destroying the building, and burning one of the boys to death. Marchmont House was a portion of the estate of the late Hon. B. Murney. Total loss about \$8,000. Insured for \$2,000. Origin of the fire unknown. Another fire broke out in a row of small wooden buildings on Front street, owned by Alexander Robertson and occupied by Mrs. Bellair, milliner, I. Copeland, harness maker, J. Thomas, barber, and others. The fire was confined to Mrs. Bellair's. Considerable damage to the others was caused by water and removal.

Brucefield, Jan. 29.—The residence of David Johns was entirely consumed. The flames spread to the adjoining buildings, occupied by Hugh McIntosh as a wagon and carriage factory, which speedily shared the same fate. Johns lost most of his personal effects. Mr. McIntosh lost part of his tools and stock, but was partly insured. Cause of fire unknown.

Otonabee Township, Ont., Jan. 13.—Frame barn of Alex. Graham, with contents, was destroyed; insured.

Ops Township, Jan. 23.—Barns of Thos. Ray, with contents; loss stated at \$2,200; insured in Agricultural, of London, for \$1,200; cause unknown.

Clinton, Jan. 26.—The moulding department of Clinton Foundry, of Messrs. Glasgow, McPherson & Co., of this place, was destroyed by fire. A quantity of patterns in the building were destroyed.

Kemptville, Jan. 18.—The dwelling-house, barn, and all out-buildings, together with their contents, belonging to Mr. George Powell, about eight miles from this place, were totally destroyed by fire.

Norwich, Ont., Jan. 15.—The steam saw-mill of Thos. Cowap, about six miles east of here, was destroyed on the 15th inst. Loss \$3,500; no insurance.

KINCARDINE, Jan. 31.—The premises on Queen street occupied by the *Review* printing office, Dr. Johnson's office, and Crozier & Leslie's harness shop, were totally destroyed by fire this morning. Crozier & Leslie's loss over insurance is \$2,000; Dr. Johnson's loss is \$400, no insurance. The loss of C. Cliffe, editor of the *Review*, over insurance, is \$400.

NEW HAMBURG, Jan. 30.—A fire broke out in a brick building, owned and occupied by Mr. John Haftner—the furniture was mostly saved. The flames soon spread to an adjoining frame building, owned and occupied by Alexander Baird, merchant tailor, whose goods and furniture were mostly saved, though considerably damaged. Both buildings were entirely consumed. Haftner's loss is about \$800; no insurance. Baird's loss is estimated at about \$1,000, and insured in the Provincial for the full amount.

TORONTO, Jan. 31.—A fire caught in a room over Lyman Bros. drug store, supposed to be from overheating of the furnace pipes; it was discovered in time and extinguished with trifling loss.