

**Post Office Savings Banks.**—Notwithstanding the severe depression in trade in Great Britain for several years the deposits in Post Office Savings banks continue to increase. The sum on deposit in 1881, which was the most prosperous of late years was £36,194,496. A falling off might have been expected with the decline of business, but in 1882 the amount had increased to £39,037,821; in 1883, £41,768,808; in 1884, £44,773,773, and in 1885, £47,697,838. This shows that the working classes of the country are becoming more prudent and saving.

**The largest business in the world.**—Alfred Krupp owns probably the largest business in the world dependent on one individual. The works within the town of Essen occupy more than 500 acres, half of which are under cover. According to a census taken in September, 1881, the number of hands employed by Mr. Krupp was 19,605, the number of their families 45,776, making 65,381 persons supported by his works. Mr. Krupp owns 547 iron mines in Germany. He owns four sea steamers, and there are connected with his Essen works 42 miles of railway, employing 28 locomotives and 883 cars, 69 horses with 191 waggons, and 40 miles of telegraph wires, with 35 stations and 55 Morse apparatuses. The establishment possesses a grand chemical laboratory, a photographic and lithographic atelier, a printing office with three steam and six hand presses, and a bookbinding room. The establishment even runs a hotel in Essen.

**Failures in Canada and the United States.**—Dun, Wiman & Co. report that the failures in the Dominion of Canada for the first six months of 1886 number 699 with liabilities of \$5,500,000, as against 690 in the first half of 1885 with liabilities of \$5,166,000, showing that the number of failures for the two half years are almost identical, but with liabilities increased by \$400,000 in 1886. This, while not altogether encouraging, is very favorable when compared with the figures for the first half of 1884 when there were 742 failures, with liabilities of over \$10,500,000.

In the United States the failures for the first half of 1886 numbered 5,156, with liabilities of \$50,000,000 as compared with 6,004 in the first six months of 1885, with liabilities of nearly \$75,000,000, a most surprising decrease considering the strain upon the commercial community during the last few months arising from labor troubles and consequent loss of confidence and restriction of enterprise. The semi-annual circular of the agency just issued speaks most hopefully of the prospect for the autumn trade, now that a better condition of things exists.

**France.**—In view of the new census in France, the following table, showing the progress of the population since the beginning of the last century, has been issued by the Census Committee:—

Year.	Total Population.	Year.	Total Population.
1700.....	19,660,320	1841.....	34,230,678
1762.....	21,769,163	1846.....	35,400,686
1772.....	22,642,000	1851.....	35,680,170
1784.....	24,800,000	1856.....	38,039,264
1801.....	27,349,003	1861.....	37,386,161
1806.....	29,107,425	1866.....	38,067,074
1821.....	30,401,873	1872.....	36,102,221
1826.....	31,868,937	1878.....	37,000,000
1831.....	32,519,223	1881.....	37,672,048
1836.....	33,540,940		

It will be remarked that twice within the last quarter of a century there has been a decrease in the population—viz., in 1861, when it was more than 600,000 less than in 1856, and again in 1872, when the decrease of nearly 2,000,000 from the census of 1866, was due chiefly, but not altogether, to the cession of Alsace-Lorraine to Germany.

## NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

The report of the directors for the year ending December 31, 1885, states that the net premium income was £588,841, against £577,207 in 1884. After setting aside one-third of the premiums (£196,280) as a reserve against liabilities on policies not run off, the balance at the credit of profit and loss account, including the unappropriated balance, £80,661, brought forward from the previous year, is £162,186, out of which an interim dividend of £2 per share was paid in January last, and a further dividend of £2 per share has been declared by the Board, and will be payable on July 8th. The reserve fund will be increased to £250,000, and a balance of £98,186 carried forward to next year's account. The working profit of the year (irrespective of interest) is £62,605, as against £29,744 for the preceding year.

## THE BRITON MEDICAL AND GENERAL LIFE ASSOCIATION.

In the matter of "The Companies Acts, 1862 and 1867," and in the matter of "The Life Assurance Companies Acts, 1870 and 1872," and in the matter of The Briton Medical and General Life Association, Limited.

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of the directions given by the Judge, the Honorable Mr. Justice Kay, a meeting of the policy-holders and annuitants of the above-named Association at which Mr. Henry Dever, the provisional official liquidator of the above-named Association will preside, is to be held at the Cannon Street Hotel, London, on Monday, the 26th day of July, at two o'clock in the afternoon, when the report of Messrs Bailey and Hardy the attorneys appointed by the court to ascertain the present liabilities of the Association, and also the report of Messrs Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths and Company as to the existing assets of the said Association will be stated to the meeting. The short result of the investigation of the Association's affairs is as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Amounts assured by existing policies.....	3,205,118	3	0			
Annuities per annum.....	910	0	2			
Estimated present liability in respect of the above....	1,043,408	0	0			
The report as to the assets will be completed before the meeting is held, and it is feared that they will produce less than one-half of the amount of the present liabilities, or say about.....	400,000	0	0			

This deficiency is owing in part to defalcations which the investigations already made show amount to not less than £100,000.

The following questions will be submitted to the meeting:—

Whether it is desirable that an order should be made by the court for winding-up the affairs of the above-named Association? or, in the alternative,

Whether a scheme should be sanctioned for the reconstruction of the company upon the footing of a reduction of its contracts?

Dated this 12th day of July, 1886.

GREGORY, ROWCLIFFES & COMPANY.

1 Bedford Row, London,

Solicitors for the provisional official liquidator.

**NOTE.**—Only policy-holders and annuitants can be admitted to the meeting, and no proxies will be allowed. It is therefore essential that this Notice be presented in order to obtain admission. This room will be opened at half-past one o'clock, being half-an-hour before the chair will be taken.