

of the National Executive Committee will be held on the evening of the same day. The regular business sessions of the National Association will open on the morning of the 10th, closing on the 11th, which will be Friday. On the 12th an excursion will be given to Niagara Falls. The following local committees have been appointed by the Buffalo local fire agents to care for the convention: Advisory—C. H. Woodworth, chairman; finance—O. J. Eggert, chairman; transportation—C. Lee Abell, chairman; press—Edward C. Roth, chairman; programme—F. W. Groves, chairman; excursion—E. S. Hawley, chairman; hotels and halls—M. J. O'Brian, chairman; reception—W. J. Sandrock, chairman.

The authorities of Wolfville, warned by the disastrous experience of their neighboring Nova Scotia towns of Digby, Bridgewater and Windsor, in the matter of conflagration, have resolved that the efficiency of its fire department shall be increased. At a public meeting held to discuss the matter of fire protection a committee was appointed to select a situation and get estimates for a new town hall with a more convenient and central place for fire apparatus. It consists of the Mayor, Councillors DeWitt and Borden, and J. F. Herbin, Chas. Patriquin and Martin Picks, who will report to a future meeting.

Much interest is being taken in life assurance circles in the approaching assembly of the first International Congress of Life Insurance Medical Examiners. It is to be held in Brussels on September 25th to 30th this year. There are to be representatives present from the United States, and from nearly every country in Europe. Greater uniformity in the conduct of life assurance is expected to result from the congress. It is desired to establish a universal standard and formula for the examination of candidates for life insurance. As a result of the congress it is expected that permanent officers or committees will be provided for in every country. composed of five medical examiners whose duty it will be to see that the rules of the congress are strictly observed.

After a lingering illness, of a very painful nature, Mr. Henry B. Hyde, president of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, died at his residence in New York on Tuesday last. Mr. Hyde has done great service for the Equitable in planning and supervising so enormous a business as it has piled up.

The organization meeting of the Victoria-Montreal Fire Insurance Company has been held in Montreal, on which occasion the report of the provisional directors was adopted, and the following gentlemen unanimously elected directors: Messrs. Robert Mackay, Robert Bickerdike, Hon. J. D. Rolland, H. J. Beemer, Jas. A. Wright and Thos. A. Temple, of Montreal; Hon. Wm. Pugsley, of St. John, N.B.; Rodolphe Audette, of Quebec, and C. J. Booth, of Ottawa.

ANSWERS TO ENQUIRERS.

ENQUIRER, Prescott; E. J. C., Manitoba; F. R., city.—The move made by the Home Life Association in abandoning the assessment system for that of a regular life company is commendable. And the change appears to have been gone about with intelligence. The powers asked from the present session of Parliament at Ottawa are not yet obtained, but a million dollars capital is specified. Already, we are told, \$220,000 of this is subscribed; but besides this there is \$100,000 of guarantee stock subscribed under the old regime. The president of the company is a man of influence and of good character, and the management is competent. We have seen a table of the company's rates, which are adequate for a healthy business, and the effect of the change in nature of business has already resulted in an increase of risks. We see no reason why the company should not do a large business, and its shares should be a reasonable investment.

S. N., Nelson, B.C.—There have been some transactions in Northern Belle Gold Mining Co. shares on the Toronto Mining Exchange this month. The company is not a new one. It was a Washington State affair, and was floated at a million dollars, but the parties who originally owned the stock sold most of it out—at least that is what one Toronto man did, and it has lain dormant awhile. The thing has been reconstructed and a Canadian charter obtained. Thomas Long of Toronto is president, H. P. Dwight, vice-president; Henry Pellatt and others

here are present proprietors. We are told that they have \$3,000 cash and \$80,000 of stock in the treasury, and are waiting and enquiring and feeling their way as to the best course to pursue. They will not say at present what their policy is. The location is near the St. Elmo, and not far from the Southern Belle, and has just as good a promise for the future as a dozen or a hundred other so-called mines—which are only really prospects. If you have money that you can afford to lose, and like to speculate on the future of the property, it is just as good a "gamble" as a score of other things. Lots of 1,000 and 2,000 shares were sold here last week at 2½ and the quotation on the Toronto Mining Exchange is 2½ to 2¾ cents for a dollar share.

CHEESE MARKETS OPEN.

The cheese season is now opened and two of the Ontario boards have met for business. Others have elected officers and will soon be down to a working basis. The opening prices realized this year ranging from 9.5-16 to 9½ cents per pound are very high. A year ago cheese marketed in the first weeks of May brought 7½ to 8.3-16 cents per pound. It is to be hoped the experience of the trade will be more satisfactory this year than last, as the strength during the closing months of the year has failed to make compensation for early losses. The boards meeting this week and their transactions were:

Boards and Date of meeting.	No. of facto- ries.	Cheese boarded. Boxes.	Cheese sold. Boxes.	Price Per lb. Cts.
Belleville, May 2....	13	740	245	9½-7-16
Napanee, May 3.....	..	600	335	9 5-16

It had been intended, as we explained at the time, to call the company resulting from the amalgamation of four of the largest Toronto loan companies the "Canadian Mortgage Investment Corporation," and that would have been a title sufficiently designating the business of the new concern. But for some reason unexplained it is now proposed to lengthen the title to the "Canada Permanent and Western Canada Mortgage Corporation." This may be very pleasing and very flattering to the two companies whose names are to be perpetuated in the new and long drawn-out title. But it is not likely to be pleasing to the other two, whose names are ignored; and besides, while needlessly long does not fairly express the aggregation, and is less euphonious than the shorter one.

—A very significant cartoon by A. G. Racey, entitled "Uncle Samuel's Dilemma," appears in last Saturday's Montreal Witness. It represents John Canuck driving a beaver which hauls a wagon load of Canadian pine lumber. Coming to a gateway where Uncle Sam stands guard John seeks admission to that country. Uncle Sam, with a wry face, soliloquizes: "If I keep his lumber out for spite, he'll just turn and take it to Great Britain, and I'll have to pay fancy prices for the home material. Then I can't compete with him in the British markets, for I can't get his logs. What shall I do?"

—A branch of the Bank of Toronto is announced as opened on 1st May at Stayner, Ont., under the management of Mr. J. B. Edwards. Its premises are those formerly occupied in that town by Mr. J. C. McKeggie, private banker.

CLEARING HOUSE FIGURES.

The following are the figures of Canadian clearing house for the week ended with Thursday, May 4th, 1899, compared with those of the previous week

CLEARINGS.	May 4th, 1899.	April 27th, 1899.
Montreal.....	\$18,980,546	\$14,771,414
Toronto.....	11,015,292	8,850,307
Winnipeg	1,748,558	1,591,527
Halifax	1,500,700	1,298,625
Hamilton	819,675	749,894
St. John	441,377	561,295
Victoria	740,255	645,723
Vancouver	812,074	757,480

Aggregate balances, this week, \$5,194,823; last week, \$4,183,627.