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Wonderful
Life Insurance
Growth.

THE growth of life insurance both in Canada and the United States has for many years been

far in advance of the increase in population, as everybody informed on the subject knows. How great has been the insurance growth a few figures representing 1875 and 1892 will easily show. In Canada in the former year the premium income of the life companies was \$2,882,387, while in 1892 it was, in round numbers, about \$9,500,000. The new insurance issued in 1875 was \$15,074,258 and in 1892, approximately, \$46,000,000, estimating in part for the American and British companies. The insurance in force has grown from \$85,009,264 to about \$284,000,000, of which over \$161,000,000 is held by the Canadian companies. In the United States the premiums received in 1875 amounted to \$33,393,656, and in 1892 to \$180,000,000, in round numbers, industrial business excluded; while the new insurance issued and taken increased from \$256,131,663 in 1875 to about \$815,000,000 in 1892, and the insurance in force from \$1,997,236,230 to about \$4,250,000,000. The totals for the United States and Canada show an increase since 1875 of about \$103,223,960 in premiums, of insurance issued and taken of fully \$590,000,000, and of insurance in force of about \$2,451,000,000. That is a suggestive record for eighteen years.

Self-Insurance
Beautifully
Illustrated.

OUR comments on self-insurance in the last issue of the CHRONICLE have within a few

days been strikingly emphasized by fires occurring in two not widely separated places within twenty-four hours of each other. On Saturday afternoon, the 4th inst., at Toronto, fire broke out in the central prison, and consumed one of its principal workshops, entailing a loss for building, stock and machinery of probably \$50,000. The Ontario government was its "own insurer," and

hence it is out by just the amount of the loss, and the insurance companies are just that much better off. The other fire was at Point Airy, N.Y., near Ogdensburg, and consumed a portion of the new buildings comprising the St. Lawrence State Hospital for the Insane, causing a loss to the State, which was its "own insurer," of something like \$150,000. All of which means that the tax-payers of Ontario and the tax-payers of New York will put their hands into their pockets and replace the \$200,000 worth of property gone up in smoke, meanwhile comforting themselves with the thought that a few dollars in premiums were saved anyhow; just how many years of saved premiums will be necessary to balance the account with the Ontario government, for instance, may now profitably be ciphered out. Let us say seventy-five years. Great is the economy of self-insurance.

A Suggestive
Fire Loss
Record.

JUST now, while the ability of our fire department, with the apparatus at its command and

with the existing water supply to successfully handle fires, is under consideration, it is in order to remind the property owners of Montreal that during 1892 the fire loss in this city amounted, in round numbers, to \$775,000, as shown by our monthly tables published throughout the year. There has been no conflagration to account for this heavy loss, the largest fire of the year, about \$130,000, occurring in January, and the Clendinning fire, say \$90,000, in July, and the Rolling Mills fire in August, about \$60,000. The bulk of the remaining half million of loss came from numerous fires ranging from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Exceeding the latter figure there were twelve fires, and exceeding the former twenty-one. By way of comparison, it may be noted that Minneapolis, with 180,000 population and many wooden buildings, had a fire loss in 1892 of \$390,000,—about one-half of Montreal's \$775,000 with 220,000 population. Even New York, with its several million-dollar fires and bad record generally, and with more than seven times the population of Montreal, had only about six times the loss in 1892, or \$4,891,557. Chicago, in 1891, had a total loss (\$3,157,348) only four times that of Montreal last year, though its population was five and a half times greater. Toronto in