

estimated that the changes in the Dominion tariffs have added 60 cents to the cost of getting out 1 M. of lumber. This added to the local tax (\$1) makes \$1.60, a remarkable contrast with the 25 cents of former years."

We give these *estimates* for the benefit of adjusters, as it may facilitate their labors after lumber fires.

It will thus be seen that the cost of lumber in *first hands* is entirely a matter of estimate as a measure of damage; but when the lumber-yard merchant has purchased his stock at current rates, then the measure of damage to *him*, in the event of loss can, as in any other jobbing house claim, be easily ascertained by reference to his invoices, bills of expenses, etc., until piled in the place where burned. The factors then will simply be:

The value of the lumber at risk, as covered by the property, less the salvage at sound cost value, the difference being the loss for which the insurers will be liable to the extent of their insurance. But just how much each of the offices will pay will depend upon the concurrency or non-concurrency of their several policies. In any event the loss being proved within the amount of the insurance, and honest, the insured must be paid in full, and any dispute as to each office's proportion must be settled among themselves.

UNION MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.

We direct attention to an article in another column taken from the *New York Insurance Monitor*, commenting on the recent action of the Massachusetts Insurance department in excluding the Union Mutual Life Co. from that State. We decidedly endorse the opinions there expressed. The Massachusetts Insurance department seems of late to have degenerated into a mere party machine, and its superintendent into a political hack. The Governor, General Ben Butler, is aiming at the presidency of the United States, and thinks to gain popularity by appearing as a reformer in all departments of the public service. He has endeavored to make use of the Insurance department for his own purposes, and, as a result, it may almost be said to have become the laughing-stock of the country.

We are always among the first to expose anything really wrong about a company, but we have yet to learn that the Union Mutual is anything else than a sound, well-managed company, entitled to the confidence of the public. At the same time, the sight of the extremes to which State supervision of insurance may be carried, and the injury done by it not only to sound companies but to the public as a whole may well make us feel thankful that we in Canada have been spared the infliction.

BOARD INSPECTION.

The Chief Engineer of the Fire Department in St. John N.B., at the instance of the New Brunswick Board of Fire Underwriters has again made a thorough and careful inspection of the mercantile premises in that City, and has handed into the Board a detailed report of the condition in which he found each building.

The chief object of these inspections, which the New Brunswick Board has caused to be annually made during the

past six years, is for the prevention of fires from defective heating apparatus and insufficient protection to woodwork in their vicinity, open stovepipe holes in chimnies, gas brackets that swing against partitions, and those close under ceilings in cellars and other places, ashes placed in wooden boxes or barrels, accumulations of rags and paper in cellars and closets, etc., etc.

Inflammable and explosive stocks are also noted.

The advantages of such inspections by a person having authority to order any reasonable alteration to be made for better security against fire are apparent to the mercantile community of St. John, as well as to the Insurance Companies, and Boards in other portions of the Dominion should consider the advisability of having similar inspections instituted

FURLED!

In the City of Hamilton, Ont., of general debility (inanimation) The "Standard Fire Insurance Co.," aged six years and six months. Its end was pieces, little pieces!

The not unexpected demise of this notorious weakling was undoubtedly hastened by the cruel, heartless desertion of its natural protector and progenitor, D. B. Chisholm. So long as a year ago, the Standard's pulse indicated a rapidly decreasing vitality. The Ontario Court Physician, Dr. Hunter, must have made a very superficial diagnosis of the patient's case on the occasion of his last visit, for he reported it progressing satisfactory, as he collected his fee "for services rendered," which goes to show that doctoring by the year is not a good arrangement for the sick man. The wealthy and influential members of the family to which the Standard belonged felt it a duty they owed themselves to insist on the services of Dr. Robert McLean being called for—this gentleman being now celebrated for his "Sovereign Remedy" (I hope it will be, I'm sure) for sick Companies,—as he says himself, it either kills or cures. Alas, that famous prescription known to the Faculty as the "Minimum Tariff Pad" (sizes A, B, C, D, and E, with specifics to follow) came too late to save the little "Standard."

Nurse Crawford, who had sole charge of the little sufferer in its latter days, did his best by weakly bulletins to calm the fears of those most interested in the life of his charge, trying with all his might to make the public believe that all was well. In fact, in this respect his zeal outran his discretion, as he personally attacked this journal because we inserted from time to time articles disputing his statements as to the health and well-being of his nurseling. Surely now, remorse for his unfair treatment of us will goad him continually until he calls on us and makes his peace! It may be proper to say right here that, as an Insurance Journal, we have our duties to perform, and intend always to perform them in the interests of the public, fearlessly. Results have justified our course with regard to the now sainted Standard (for all Hamilton Insurance Companies *go up* we think); and although we are told that Corporations have no souls we charitably believe that the Standard, though lacking in material dross, had so large a share of spirit—the spirit of compromise—that with spiritual eyes it now looks down on this Journal as one of its best friends, whose warnings, had they been heeded,