

costly as some have supposed who have commented on these figures without considering the comparisons we have made. The question now arises as to the causes of such an enormous discrepancy in the fires in those two cities. Our contemporary says: "The difference in the manner of construction of buildings in Paris and in New York is responsible for the difference in the two cities' fire losses. In Paris, while the buildings are not 'fire-proof,' they are of such solid and substantial construction that they are slow to catch fire and slow to burn. New York—indeed, almost every American city—is built so flimsily that fires start easily, and find inflammable matter so ready to feed upon that they spread with rapidity that is sometimes almost inconceivable." The extra and disproportionate cost of fires in New York over those in Paris, including extra cost of fire brigade, amounted in 1894 to \$4,871,892. If that sum, or any considerable percentage, was lost owing to "flimsy" building, then such building is "penny wise and pound foolish." There is, however, an element in this question which *Harper's* overlooks. Parisian houses and other structures are not exposed to anything like the risks which buildings are in New York, as the period of severe weather is much shorter, and the value of goods stored in Paris in warehouses is small compared to New York. A sea port and an inland residential city have very different conditions, which must be considered in comparing their respective fire losses.

Insurance as a Peacemaker.

THE policy holders in the New York Life, who are residents in England, having shown some alarm during the war excitement, for war plays havoc with international engagements the company's manager in Great Britain cabled to the head office for information. President McCall replied as follows: "The rights of our policy-holders, no matter where their residence, will be protected and guaranteed at all times and through all hazards without preference and to the full extent of our resources. I may add that we are confident there is common sense with the people of this and the mother country sufficient and potential to prevent other than a peaceful solution of every difference between us from now until time shall be no more." The interlacement of financial interests, by which Great Britain and the United States and Canada are bound into monetary unity, is the force which gives the strongest assurance of peace, and in those mutual interests those arising from insurance take a prominent position. The great English fire offices operating in the States, and the substantial life assurance companies of the States operating in Great Britain and her colonies, are each and all peace-makers of great influence. So far from regarding them with jealousy and seeking to hamper their business as has been done in Prussia, in Brazil and in Chili, it is to the material advantage of every country to have foreign enterprises associated with native ones, and foreign capitalists interested in the activities of other nations, as this tends to ensure permanent peace, which is so essential to mercantile and financial prosperity.

German Accident Statistics.

THE system of compulsory accident insurance in force in Germany enables the government to collect statistics relating to accidents, the business being managed by a State Bureau. The total number of accidents in 1894 was 264,130, which gives one accident to about each 200 of the population, which seems to us a very high ratio. At the same rate there would be 26,500 accidents in Canada yearly, and 1200 in this city, or 23 every week throughout the year. Out of that large total of German accidents about 9,000 were fatal, or caused total disablement. The percentage of this class to all others is 3.40, and it gives a fatal accident or one of disablement yearly to each 5,500 of the population of Germany. On the same scale Canada would have 900 fatal accidents every year, which we hope is much in excess of those which actually occur here. Much boasting is indulged in over the protection given by system of State compulsory insurance, which has kept widows and children from beggary. So far it has done good work. But in Canada our friendly societies, and other organizations designed to afford the same protection to workmen and others, can make as honorable a boast, without having had the personal liberty of our people compromised by compulsory insurance managed by government officials. That system may be acceptable to the people of the German Empire, it would not be approved by Canadians who prefer to manage their own affairs in this respect, and enjoy the privilege of being free from official control.

"Nylie," What is it?

THE word "Nylie" being talked about at present is formed by the initials of the New York Life Insurance Company. The term is applied to a movement being made by this Company to consolidate their agents into some form of organization for the purpose of keeping the staff more permanently in the Company's service. A companies suffer from the constant changes which go on in officials, men come and go after such brief terms of service as preclude their ever being thoroughly efficient, or heartily loyal to the companies whom they so temporarily represent. Men have hardly had time to thoroughly master the system and methods of their Company, than off they go to some other field. This restlessness, for it is little else, of agents is as injurious to them as it is to the companies. They become nomadic in habits, and at last cannot settle to any steady, permanent engagement. Frequent changes usually tend to make men Ishmaelitic in spirit, and it is by such men that insurance interests in general are injured, as their own self-respect is lowered by gypsy-like habits, and as they usually leave a company in a state of irritation, they go about seeking as much to damage its interests as to promote those of their new employer. The New York Life is seeking to correct this evil by offering inducements in order to encourage steadier devotion to its service. As far as we understand it, the plan seems somewhat based on the annuity principle. The Company will assure a certain income to an agent regulated by the length of his service to the business