

### Insurance Matters.

From the *Insurance & Commercial Gazette* of New York :

The "latest" is a "Free Tontine," i. e. free to pay in as much as you please. There is said to be "millions in it!"

The New York Life Insurance Company has withdrawn from the State of Massachusetts, owing to difficulties with the state Insurance commissioner.

The record of the Equitable Life Insurance Company for 1889:

New insurance in 1889 over .....	\$175,000,000
Assets January 1st, 1890. ....	105,000,000
Surplus " " .....	22,500,000
Income in 1889.....	30,000,000
Insurance in force.....	\$25,000,000

Fire insurance companies make a big mistake in trying to crowd up insurance to get more premiums, instead of trying to reduce losses. One big loss absorbs a big pile of net premiums. Policies should be so worded that losses would be reduced 50%, by which more profit would result to companies on one-half premium income than under present practice.

All fire insurance companies did a large and profitable business during last month, and pray it may continue during the whole year. This we do not expect, as the friction of creditors on well insured property these dull times is sure to produce a heavy crop of fires; yet many managers crowd up insurance to secure volume of premiums, which carries with it increased temptation to "let it burn," therefore increased volume of losses.

Weather prophets, says an exchange, prophesy that the long continued lingering of summer in the lap of winter, will produce a fine crop of fires in clothing stocks very early this spring. Of course; yet companies will persist in inducing the insured to crowd up his insurance, so that a fire may be a good wholesale of the insured property, to the insuring companies. As a rule no risk is safe, where the insured can recover over three-fourths of loss sustained.

Ditman, of Philadelphia, who either committed suicide or was accidentally killed, held \$200,000 life insurance and \$30,000 accident insurance, to wit: In New York Life, \$50,000; Provident Life and Trust, Philadelphia, \$50,000; Mutual Life, New York, \$20,000; Penn. Mutual Life Insurance Company, \$10,000; Connecticut Mutual, \$50,000, and the Equitable and other Companies for various small amounts. The \$30,000 accident policies will have to be paid in any event, whether he was killed by accident or committed suicide.

Insurance companies should bear in mind that if non liability for loss is claimed, on the ground of exception from liability under specific conditions in policy, the *onus* of proof of non liability, is on those who allege it, as a defense to an action founded on the policy. Death by suicide, through the result of disease, is death by accident as adjudicated by supreme court of United States. As a rule, we think the foresight of making all policies incontestable after one or two years except as to age, is wise, producing popularity and more business than curses and lapses.

Hartford capitalists are not yet fully convinced as to the proper form of policy for safety of a Burglar Insurance Company, therefore the requisite capital has not been secured. One

was started in New York, and without agents or special effort, its premium income exceeded \$10,000 a month, but owing to stock incompleteness it was closed up. There is room for a good burglar insurance company, capital \$1,000,000, to indemnify property holders from loss by burglary of large or small amounts. It is a necessity, practicable, safe to the company and could be made highly remunerative. It is said the *American Casualty and Security Company* lately chartered in Maryland, will assume this and all other insurable risks.

### Grain and Milling.

W. Brown, miller, near Paisly, Ont., contemplates coming west with his mill.

British Columbia is to have another roller flour mill. A. E. Howse, of Nicola, has started east to purchase plant for a fifty-barrel roller flouring mill. During the past year \$5,000 have been sent to Lower Nicola for flour. The farmers could not sell their wheat as there was no mill to purchase it. The roller mill to be introduced will buy their wheat next year and supply the flour of the district, thus keeping the money there and promoting agriculture. Nicola is a fertile district of the interior.

W. W. Ogilvie, of the Ogilvie Milling Company, has purchased a block of buildings and land on Foundling street, at Montreal, extending 90 feet from the corner of Port street, with 74 feet frontage on Port street. The present building will be pulled down, and in their place will be erected a magnificent suite of offices, which it is claimed will outrival anything that has yet been seen in the flour trade of Montreal. On the first floor, fronting on Foundling and Port Streets, will be the principal offices, fitted up with the latest improvements and in the newest style.

### Office Furniture.

The counting room of THE COMMERCIAL office has been supplied with a splendid piece of office furniture in the shape of a fine desk from the manufactory of Tees & Company, manufacturers of office furniture, etc., Montreal. This desk is of large size, neat and convenient design, and combines elegance of finish with solidity of make, while at the same time the price is very low. Indeed it is a wonder how such a perfect article can be made for the money. Tees & Company have done quite a large trade in Great Britain and Ireland in this article, and their speciality in the desk line is now used in Liverpool, Glasgow, Cardiff, Dublin and other leading commercial cities of the United Kingdom. This shows that they are able to compete successfully even in the unprotected and cheap labor markets of the Old Country, as well as at home.

### Dairy Matters.

Rapid City parties are moving to establish a creamery at that place.

Solsgirth, Man., is likely to have a cheese factory in operation next summer.

The farmers of McGregor district, Man., are moving to secure a creamery. A committee has been appointed to work up the enterprise.

A meeting was held at Saltecoats recently to discuss the advisability of establishing a creamery. All present were in favor of it in preference to a cheese factory, and it is probable that there will be one in operation the coming season.

In view of the extension of the railway from Lethbridge into Montana, preparations are being made at the Lethbridge coal mines for a large increase in the output of coal. The *Lethbridge News* says: "Three hundred additional hands will be required, in the colliery to supply the demand, and the output will gradually be increased between now and October 1st, on and after which date the company will have to turn nine hundred tons of coal a day out of the mines in order to fill their contracts. In order to take out this quantity of coal two more shafts are shortly to be sunk on the north side of the railway track and a ventilating shaft is also to be sunk close to where the present mining shaft is. In order to provide temporary accommodation for the miners who are being brought up until they can get houses of their own, two large boarding houses are also to be erected on the north side of the track. These boarding houses are to be built to accommodate from 100 to 150 men. The sites have not yet been definitely determined, but they will be located somewhere between the shaft and Oliver & Bruce's brickyard. These buildings will be erected as soon as the snow goes and building operations can be commenced."

The following is a statement showing the value of goods exported, imported and entered for consumption at Winnipeg with duty collected thereon during the month of February last together with a comparative statement for the corresponding month of 1889:

	Value. 1890	Value. 1889.
Exported .....	\$ 49,051 00	\$ 84,956 00
Imported—dutiable..	124,773 00	158,985 00
Imported—free .....	27,422 00	32,641 00
Total imported.	\$152,195 00	\$191,626 00
Entered for consumption—dutiable .....	\$125,367 00	\$161,543 00
Entered for consumption—free .....	27,422 00	32,641 00
Total for consumption	\$152,789 00	\$194,184 00
Duty collected .....	\$ 39,051 43	51,419 43

On Wednesday last taxpayers of Vancouver, B.C., voted upon the by-law to give a bonus of \$30,000 for the establishment of a sugar refinery, capable of refining one hundred barrels per day. The by-law was carried. Besides the bonus the promoters are to have a remission of the taxation upon their property for a number of years, provided that building operations will commence immediately, and the refinery will be in operation within eight months. The projectors are New York parties.

The Inland Revenue collections at Winnipeg for February were as follows:

Spirit .....	\$7,256 89
Malt.....	505 48
Tobacco.....	4,307 30
Cigars.....	225 00
Petroleum.....	55 80
Wines .....	25 00

Total .....

The transactions at the Dominion Government Savings bank, Winnipeg, during February were as follows.

Deposits .....	\$15,559 00
Withdrawals .....	20,853 99

Withdrawals exceeded deposits by...\$ 4,853 99