rate was 2 to 3½. A rise to 5½ then occurred for a few weeks, then, at the end 1855, an advance set in which calminated at the close of 1857 in 10 p.c. prevailing from November 11, to 23rd December. In 1858 the rate dropped to 3 and 2½. In February, 1861, another advance took place to 8 per cent., which lasted a month, and in January, 1862, the rate dropped to 2½. In 1864 there was a rise to 9 per cent. for a few weeks, then a rapid decline took place. On May 16, 1866, the bank rate rose to 10 p.c. under the Overend-Gurney panic, but this rate broke in August and soon went down to 3½.

The following shows the fluctuations of the bank rate with the time each rate continued:

	Sept. 1844 to Jan. 1853. Weeks.	Jan. 1858 to Sept., 1858 Weeks.
2 p.c.	27	..
2½ p.c.	142	51
3 p.c.	127	26
3½ p.c.	64	10
4 p.c.	32	21
4½ p.c.	..	76
5 p.c.	21	26
5½ p.c.	11	21½
6 p.c.	3	13
6½ p.c.	2	36
6 to 7 p.c.	4	4
7 p.c.	..	4½
8 p.c.	..	36
9 p.c.	..	½
10 p.c.	..	6½
	Weeks 433	Weeks 298

The record of the Bank of France shows an even more equable and uniform course.

We could extend this statement, but it is needless as subequent years repeated the record we have given from 1844 to 1871, 38 years, during which period the bank rate, in England, only rose twice to 10 p.c., and then only for a short time, the average for those years being about 3½ p.c.

Adam Smith in "Wealth of Nations," says:

"Scarcity of money is not confined to improvident spent thrifts. Overtrading is the common cause of it. Sober men, whose projects have been disproportioned to their capitals, are as likely to have neither the wherewithal to buy money nor credit to borrow it. They run about to borrow money everywhere and everybody tells them that they have none to lend."

Now, while this is true, and may to some extent account for the repeated monetary flurries in the United States, where there is always a tendency to over-trade and to strain capital to its extreme limit of strength as a basis for operations and for credit it is only a partial explanation. Over-trading can be and should be checked by bankers long before danger point is reached. It shows a grievous lack of financial ability and foresight for bankers to let such conditions go on until they are compelled to put money up to well nigh prohibitive rates. It is no credit for bankers to sustain operations which are liable to develop such conditions as so frequently prevail in the United States, under which the price of money is raised to enormous figures.

There seems to be an almost reckless disregard by our neighbours of precautions against extreme stringency. Either the signs of such conditions developing are not seen, which would indicate a strange lack of ordinary business prescience, or, for some unworthy purpose, these conditions are fostered until the whole business of the country is disturbed, out of which some, who have money to lend, are enabled to realize excessive profits.

The frequent monetary flurries in the United States seem to discount the claim that they constitute the wealthiest country in the world. The more that claim can be substantiated, the more evident it becomes that its financial affairs are the worst managed. It is not creditable to so rich and progressive a country to have a banking or currency system, which will permit of either a single bank, or a few individuals holding up the financial affairs of the country, and causing these money flurries, whether it be for greed, or any other object. Laws should be enacted and a banking system inaugurated which would prevent any possibility of the recurrence of what so recently took place in New York, when money rose to 30 p.c.

Some day one of these banking institutions is liable to set the stone rolling and be unable to stop it until a disaster has occurred which will seriously impair the credit and shake the stability of the financial affairs of the United States.

The American currency system has been condemned in the severest terms by the most eminent authorities. The Secretary of the Treasury has foretold a panic that will cause unprecedented disaster, unless a more rational system is adopted. To meet recent conditions he stretched his power, many contend, beyond the law, to lend Government money to certain banks. Such expedients are deplorable evidences of a rotten financial system, which, if left unreformed, will, sooner or later wreck the whole fabric of credit in the United States.

THE NATIONAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The new business of the company for the first three months of the year shows an increase of over 100 p.c. for the same period last year, while the surplus to policy-holders now stands at over $180,-000.

INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF MONTREAL.

The regular monthly meeting of the Montreal Insurance Institute was held on the 17th instant. The President, Mr. S. P. Stearns, occupied the chair. It was satisfactory to see a large number of members present who listened to two very interesting addresses, one by Mr. T. F. Dobbin, on "Field Work in Fire Insurance," and the other by Mr. G. H. Allen, on "Field Work in Life Insurance."