

Canadian Fire Insurance. Although it has come to be recognized as an unquestionable truth that seeing ourselves as others see us would "from many a blunder free us and foolish notion," this famous saying is open to serious objections and exceptions. Those who regard Burns' apothegm as a truth, do not pay much attention to the opinions formed of them by their neighbours, and "others see us" in such very different lights as to render their verdicts too various to be effective in clearing us from blunders and foolish notions. In fact, no one could see himself as others see him, unless he had as many eyes as Argus and as many standards of judgment. Still there is something of value in a friendly criticism. Our contemporary, "The Review," thinks that, "when the trading in fire insurance in any particular territory shows an average result of only 4 per cent. surplus, it looks as if there was something wrong in that business and that country. This is, roughly speaking, how the thing works out in Canada, where about \$27,500,000 was collected in premiums in five years, excluding 1900, and the losses swallowed all this up, with the exception of \$1,730,000, and then deducting reserve from this on the increase of income, there remains 4 per cent. of the premium receipts. And now, on the top of this, comes 1900, with a percentage of 95.9 of losses." "Truly," says "The Review," "rates must be raised, or companies must give up the game." Our contemporary, however, has not given the figures correctly, the total, or aggregate of the fire insurance premiums received by all companies in Canada for the last five years, excluding 1900, was \$36,437,516, and the total losses in same five years amounted to \$23,835,609. Those totals were thus made up:

Companies	Net premiums.	Losses paid.
Canadian.....	\$ 5,539,863	\$ 3,464,266
British.....	25,797,112	17,007,332
American.....	5,100,541	3,364,011
Totals.....	\$36,437,516	\$23,835,609

If to the losses paid we add the general expenses of those five years, which amounted to \$16,163,910, we get a total expenditure of \$39,999,519. Had the losses in those five years swallowed up all the premiums, as our contemporary states was the case, the fire insurance business in Canada would have been in "a parlous case." The companies would have to pay over sixteen millions for "general expenses," without having one dollar provided by premiums to meet the necessary outlay for conducting the business. It is evident that others may see us in a light which does our features injustice; at the same time, our London contemporary's criticism, if read by insurers, would save them from the "foolish notion" that fire insurance companies can go on for ever losing money without raising rates to stop such a weakening waste of resources.

British Losses in South Africa. The "Review" has made a specialty of statistics relating to the forces in South Africa. In a recent issue, the annexed table is given which shows that 9 per cent. of those killed in the war were officers, 3 per cent. also of those who died of disease or wounds, or accidents were officers, and the same percentage represents the proportion of officers to N. C. O. and men in hospital. Whatever may be the truth as to the military skill of the British officers, which a high German authority declares has been most unjustly criticised, there can be no doubt as to their having taken more than their share of the dangers of the war; probably more than was necessary or desirable in the interests of their men, owing to their uniform and personal equipment and the tactics they are compelled to adopt, making officers a target for the enemy.

The table given by our contemporary is as follows:

	Officer	N.C.O. & men.	Total
Killed to 31st Jany. 1901.....	331	3,346	3,680
Wounded ".....	1,242	14,914	16,156
Died of disease, wounds or accidents.....	301	9,008	9,309
Disbanded and discharged.....	299	5,231	5,530
In hospital, 28 Dec. 1900.....	415	13,716	14,131
Forces in S. Africa, 1st Feby.,			
Regulars.....	4,305	137,185	141,490
Colonials.....	1,339	27,060	28,399
Yeomanry.....
Volunteers and militia....	1,420	33,700	35,120
	7,064	197,885	204,949

The larger part of these forces are doing what is practically garrison duty. The war, properly speaking, is over; the Boers now harassing the country are merely bands of rebels, or bandits.

Baseless Law Suits. The law Courts are continuously occupied with cases that have no more solid basis than the glorious uncertainties of the law, or the hope that an unjust claim will be compromised in order to avoid a suit. Suitors are incessantly endeavouring to get some most definite agreement set aside. The Mutual Life of New York is just interested in such a suit. A person named Pearson was an applicant for a policy for \$240,000, in regard to which "The Spectator" reports the following facts: Pearson was examined for a twenty-year endowment policy in December, 1900. Before receiving and paying for the policy he was taken ill, and on January 7 entered a Boston hospital. On the same day he sent his private secretary to New York to pay the premium and obtain the policy. Next day he underwent an operation, prior to the hour when the premium was paid. On the following he died. The application contained a clause specifying that the policy would not go into effect "until the first premium shall have been paid during continuance in good health." Nothing could be clearer than that, when the first premium was paid the insured was in a dangerous condition, having earlier on the same day of the pay-