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A Canadian on London Fire Protection. A Canadian visitor to London writes us that he went to watch the fire in the Metropolis by which ten lives were lost. He describes the arrangements for rescuing persons from a burning building and for extinguishing a large fire as "scandalously inadequate." His words are: "If the Montreal Fire Brigade had been there it is highly probable that not a life would have been lost, and the damage done would certainly have been only half what it was." He gives the brigade great praise for bravery, but their equipments are described as only fit for a small town with no buildings over 2 or 3 stories. The London County Council can spend days in sociological discussions and the like, but when such practical work is wanted as protecting life and property from fire the lofty-minded Councillors seem to regard such affairs with indifference. They compel the insurance companies to pay the larger part of the cost of the Fire Brigade, which is a gross injustice, but give the companies no voice in spending the money, which is neither fair nor wise.

Mortality in South Africa. An actuarial contributor to the "Times," London, gives the following data regarding the mortality of British troops in South Africa. The higher mortality of officers in action or from wounds arises from their exposing themselves more than privates and being a favourite mark for the enemy's sharpshooters. The officers have some compensation for these risks as they recover more readily from disease, owing partly to better nursing, and probably from their having more self-control and intelligence than the average trooper.

The "Times" correspondent tabulates the results as follows:—

OFFICERS (RATES PER 1000 PER ANNUM).

	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.
Killed or died of wounds....	71.48	21.94	32.63
Deaths from disease.....	29.09	15.03	16.40
Total.....	100.57	36.27	49.03

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND MEN (RATES PER 1000 PER ANNUM).

	1899-1900.	1900-1901.	1901-1902.
Killed or died of wounds....	19.62	10.87	11.13
Deaths from disease.....	31.07	20.56	18.24
Total.....	50.69	31.43	29.37

Canadian and British Postage.

A deputation from the London Chamber of Commerce waited last week on the Hon. Mr. Mulock, Postmaster General of Canada, to urge upon his consideration a resolution of that body to the effect that, "In the best interests of Canada, Great Britain and the Empire, the postage on newspapers and periodicals should be reduced to a point where there would no longer be discrimination in favour of the United States." The question must be pressed. It is anomalous that postage to and from a foreign country should be lighter than between the mother country and her chief colony. Canada is flooded with American newspapers and magazines, the tone of which is such as renders such literature not desirable for our young people. Vulgarity bordering on indecency, flippant treatment of religious topics, jocular allusions to sacred names and events, low abuse of public men, gross caricatures of certain races, are the leading characteristics of many American publications that come into Canada on terms that give them a wide circulation. Mr. Mulock has done well so far, let him confirm the good opinion he has earned by cheapening newspaper postage to Great Britain, and using influence to induce the Home Government to adopt the same policy.