

the shafting pedestals upon the floor, making everything about them greasy and dirty, but which if caught in tin dishes suspended beneath may be used again for the same or other purposes. In the case of gas, too, extravagance requires checking in some factories where it is allowed to flare away at full pressure all over the place without any control, the supplies being of the largest size and most extravagant pattern. If a man leaves his work for an hour or two he does not think to turn down his gas, but allows it to burn all the time. In another better regulated shop, however, the burners are of a duplex or some other economical kind, pressure regulators being fixed upon the various branch pipes to control the consumption, which often varies very much at different times as some divisions are turned off or put on. The waste in this item alone in a large manufactory, with some hundreds of jets burning every day, would, if carefully examined into, be found rather startling. Even in the case of drinking water, where it has to be paid for by meter, the waste is often two or three times what there is any necessity for. A man goes to the tap, we will say for a can of water. He turns on the water, but instead of filling it at once and walking away, he rinses it out two or three times, takes a drink, throws the rest away, and then fills it and carries it off, totally oblivious of the fact that all the time this maneuvering is going on the water is running away. Now a push tap, which allows the water to run only while it is pressed with the thumb, would be found economical in such a case, and would at least save a portion of the waste.

#### INSURANCE NOTES.

The members of the Ontario Mutual Fire Insurance company held their annual meeting in London on the 28th instant, the president, Mr. Andrew McCormack, presiding. The annual report of the directors to the members was submitted by the secretary and adopted. The following directors were elected: Messrs. Andrew McCormack, John Christie, Nathaniel Reid, James Egan and Robert Smith. Mr. McCormack was re-elected as president and Mr. N. Reid as vice-president.

To the Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance company is to be attributed the development in the United States of the system of inspecting boilers and insuring property exposed to destruction by possible explosions thereof. To-day property valued at over \$26,000,000 is guarded by the Company's policies. It is a matter of fact, says the *Chronicle*, that in every series of inspection made by the company over 10 per cent. of the boilers in that country have dangerous defects and are reported as positively dangerous. The Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company of Canada is doing a like good work for the steam users of this country; and we trust to see it prosper.

We have seen lately a list of wealthy and prominent men in the business world of the United States whose lives were insured for sums ranging from \$100,000 to several hundred thousand dollars. It is a matter of interest to learn that one of the most prominent business men in Ontario, Mr. George Gooderham of the old-established Gooderham & Works Milling and Distilling company, has his life insured for over a quarter of a million. The policies are, as we learn from Mr. R. S. Baird, in the Equitable Life Society \$100,000, fifteen-year endowment; in the New York Life \$100,000, same; Confederation Life Association \$20,000; Aetna \$20,000; North American Life \$20,000; all three ten-year endowments. Such testimony to the

soundness of life insurance as an investment from so well-known a business man, is valuable.

"Another block to go under the pyramid," is the phrase in which a friend of the Watertown Agricultural Insurance Company refers to the 1884 report of that Co. The net assets as at January 1st last are shown to be \$1,722,588 as compared with \$1,650,057 a year before; an increase of \$72,000 for the protection of policyholders. The company's net surplus is now \$134,551, and it can boast of having paid losses of over four millions during the thirty-two years of its existence.

The Federal Life Company of Hamilton, has opened an office at 50 Yonge St., in this city, which is in charge of R. H. Jarvis, inspector of the Company.

#### BRITISH EXPORT TRADE.

The following comparative table shows the increase or decrease in the export trade of the United Kingdom during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1884. It shows a decline in the British Commerce of the year equal to nearly seven million pounds:—

	Twelve months ending 31st December, 1884.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
Russia.....£	—	£ 100,163
Germany .....	—	101,237
Holland.....	772,731	—
Belgium .....	131,289	—
France.....	—	752,331
Turkey .....	—	302,943
Spain, &c.....	105,343	—
Portugal, &c.....	190,116	—
Italy .....	—	67,269
Denmark .....	—	38,679
Greece, Austria, Roumania, Sweden, and Norway	—	274,272
United States....	—	2,739,656
British N America.	—	536,117
British Possessions	—	486,185
India, &c. ....	—	1,010,454
Australia .....	—	583,032
Egypt .....	—	513,968
China, &c.....	12,269	—
Brazil.....	33,110	—
Japan .....	—	67,234
Other small States	—	536,946
Unenumerated....	—	6,270
	1,244,858	8,116,756
	—	1,244,858

	1883.	1884.
Total Board of Trade Returns..	239,799,473	232,927,575
	232,927,575	—
Decrease.....£	6,871,898	—

	Summary of 12 months.	
	Increase.	Decrease.
The whole of Europe..£	—	£ 437,415
British Dependencies..	—	2,615,788
United States.....	—	2,739,656
The whole outer world.	—	1,079,039
Decrease.....	—	£6,871,898

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE ASSURANCE Co.—We have already had occasion to observe that this company showed an example of promptness in furnishing its statements to government of last year's business. And last week its annual report and balance sheet were laid before its members. These were laid before our readers last week; we may now observe their leading features and briefly compare them with those of the previous year. The new business of the year is represented by 931 policies issued, insuring \$1,905,000 as compared with 748 policies for \$1,401,000 in 1883. Out of a total revenue of \$155,000, no less than \$84,000 has been applied to increase the reserve and surplus. Where at the close of 1883 the surplus was

\$17,141, it is now \$29,925. Death claims, though in the previous year less than the expectancy, are this year light; while a reduction has been effected in management expenses coincident with an increased business, and the amount of premiums in agents' hands or in course of transmission is reduced by nearly one half. Assurance and annuity funds are swelled to \$179,000. The progress shown by the company is very creditable and surpasses that of a number of others at a like stage of their history. Its affairs are admittedly well-administered, and in the words of Hon. Mr. Mowat "appear to be in an excellent and hopeful condition."

—The Nova Scotia Glass Company held its annual meeting at New Glasgow on the 21st instant, when a considerable number of shareholders attended. The report submitted shows that the company has made fair progress during the year. A prudent allowance has been made for depreciation in the plant of the concern; the bad debts made appeared at the same time to be small in amount. The European work people who were brought out as substitutes for the too independent and dictatorial Americans are giving, we are told, good satisfaction. The directors express themselves with hopefulness regarding the future of the company, and state that with care and attention they are now in a position to secure a fair share of any business in their line that is to be done. The following directors were chosen for the ensuing year:—Andrew Walker, A. C. Bell, H. J. Townsend, P. A. McGregor and James Eastwood.

—The Hand-in-Hand Insurance Company has declared its usual ten per cent. dividend and the Queen City Insurance Company has paid its shareholders, out of the earnings of the past year, twenty-five per cent. on the original paid-up capital, besides increasing very materially the reserve fund. Such results, in a season where complaint is general of the unremunerative character of fire insurance operations, are not less creditable to the skill and prudence of the managers of these companies than gratifying to their members and re-assuring to their stock-holders.

—A decided increase in the exports of merchandise from Canada is shown in December, 1884, compared with 1883. They were in value, \$4,978,211, compared with \$4,561,550 for the same month in 1883. The value of exports from Canada for the month of December, 1884, was as follows:—

	Produce of Canada.	Produce of other countries.
Produce of the mine.....	\$ 282,248	\$ 19,111
Produce of the fisheries..	704,510	2,469
Produce of the forest ....	517,872	45,449
Animals and their produce.....	1,306,338	26,900
Agricultural products....	1,383,421	43,696
Manufactures.....	208,208	44,028
Miscellaneous .....	28,805	13,696
Coin and bullion.....	—	356,560

Total.....\$4,426,302 \$551,909  
The value of goods entered for consumption during the same month in 1884 and 1883 was:

	1884.	1883.
Dutiable Goods.....	\$4,118,057	\$5,751,155
Coin and bullion.....	411,402	296,058
Free goods.....	1,571,800	1,601,054
Total.....	\$6,096,259	\$7,648,267
Duty collected.....	\$1,029,178	\$1,361,872

—The quantity of lumber cut on the St. Croix last year is thus given by the *Union of Machias, Maine*: Long lumber, 47,000,000 feet; laths, 87,500,000; 9,740,000 shingles.